

Deans' Council Minutes
Wednesday, August 5, 2020
2:00 pm–4:00 pm
Virtual Meeting Space

Attending: Ravi Krovi, Brad Mortensen, Eric Amsel, Bruce Bowen, Andrea Easter-Pilcher, Bret Ellis, David Ferro, Kristin Hadley, Timothy Herzog, Wendy Holliday, Brenda Kowalewski, Leslie Loeffel, Matthew Mouritsen, Brett Perozzi, Julie Rich, Yas Simonian, Amanda Sowerby, Brian Stecklein, Norm Tarbox, Yimin Wang

Guests: Adrienne Andrews, Amy Hajdas, Betsy Mennell, Hal Crimmel, Becky Thompson

Excused:

1. Approval of July 1, 2020 Minutes

- a. These minutes will be approved by email.

2. Provost Updates

a. Fall Semester

- i. Face-to-face GenEd breadth courses are needed. Deans who are able to help are encouraged to contact Bruce.

b. Testing

- i. Face to face testing will be available as previously announced. Proctorio has been embraced by faculty and looks to be helpful for both local and distance students. Ravi & Brian expressed thanks to Kaycee Paskins and her team, and to department chairs for their work on this implementation.
- ii. Deans' Council discussed the need to develop a post-COVID testing structure.

c. CARES Funding

- i. Ravi provided updates on the "Learn and Work in Utah" funding. WSU was funded for approximately \$1.2M from this funding.

d. College Meetings

- i. Ravi thanked those who have already participated in these meetings, and looks forward to future meetings. They are intended to allow Ravi to meet faculty and to give space for faculty and staff to ask questions about fall semester.

e. Commencement (Becky Thompson)

- i. Becky offered updates on the plans for summer/fall commencement. Approval has just been received from the Weber-Morgan Health Department to hold this event, which will be held at Stuart Stadium on 8/29 at 8:00 PM. Becky offered information about mitigation protocols, the expected program, and planned publicity efforts. Deans Council strongly encouraged participation by faculty while acknowledging the extremely compressed time frame. Deans' Council thanked Becky and her team for their work.

3. Academic Support Discussions

- a. **Marketing & Communication Plan 20-21** (Betsy Mennell, John K., & Amy Hajdas)
 - i. John and Amy have met with many of the deans and thanked them for their input. Amy offered background on the development of the plan, explaining that it was formed from a strategic planning background that enables WSU to connect data to stories. She also highlighted the [Campaigns](#) page of the [WSU Brand website](#) as a resource. Deans' Council discussed how these resources could be used to offer customized, yet unified, messaging across individual colleges/divisions. John suggested Lucidpress as an easy resource that can be used by colleges/divisions. He also asked that outstanding student stories be passed along to Allison Hess.

4. Academic Agenda/Policy Discussions

- a. **Formalizing Chairs' Council** (Eric & Hal Crimmel)
 - i. Ravi offered background and explained that Hal is looking for feedback about this idea. Hal described the group and stated that they are at a crossroads with a need to formalize or disband. He shared a rationale document seeking to explore formalizing this group. Hal answered questions about the document and the Chairs' Council. Deans' Council expressed multiple concerns about formalizing this group.
- b. **Creating an Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity AA statement and GE Diversity Requirement** (Eric & Adrienne Andrews)
 - i. Eric presented a proposal to write a draft of an Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity AA statement. He explained that the document originated from the SPR discussions and, if it moves forward, would need to be vetted through faculty senate and other related bodies. Adrienne described the plans for an institutional level-diversity statement and its purpose. She supports efforts in Academic Affairs to lead out on this front. Deans' Council discussed the need to include a social justice framework in this document and the need to make sure that the document isn't so broad that it loses effectiveness. Eric will work on a rewrite of the document and share it, taking into account the suggestions offered.

5. Other Business

- a. **Fall Plans**
 - i. Deans' Council discussed alternate scholarship recognition/thank you plans for fall semester.