

**Deans' Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 4, 2021**  
**2:00 pm–4:00 pm**

**Attending:** Ravi Krovi, Brad Mortensen, Eric Amsel, Adrienne Andrews, Laine Berghout, Bruce Bowen, Andrea Easter-Pilcher, Bret Ellis, David Ferro, Wendy Holliday, Brenda Kowalewski, Betsy Mennell, Matthew Mouritsen, Brett Perozzi, Julie Rich, Yas Simonian, Julie Snowball, Brian Stecklein, Norm Tarbox, James Taylor, Deborah Uman, Yimin Wang

**Guests:** Leslie Park, Wei Qiu, Margarita Vara

**Excused:** Ben Ferney, Kristin Hadley

**1. Approval of April 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

- a. The minutes were approved as written.

**2. Provost Updates**

- a. Ravi offered the following updates:

- i. **Welcome:** Ravi welcomed Julie Rich in her new position as dean of the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences.
- ii. **Diversity Hiring initiatives:** Wendy, Deborah, and Andrea are continuing their subgroup work and hope to report back to this group.
- iii. **HEERF II and HEERF III funding regulations** do not allow for capital funding projects or for renovations. Ravi reviewed the proposals that he has received so far, and the group discussed their planned proposals, including projects focusing on:
  1. **COS:** Developing/upgrading teaching labs to enable additional student usage during loss of classroom capacity. Funding for Dev. Math instructors.
  2. **A&H:** Funding for Dev. English faculty and staff. Purchasing additional instruments so that they are not shared between students. Purchasing movable walls to create individual studio space for students.
  3. **SL:** Funding to provide print and digital materials to enable students to operate in a hybrid environment, including purchasing streaming media rights and duplicate copies of materials to compensate for delayed interlibrary loans. Piloting a textbook library for student usage. Building Amazon-type lockers to enable no-contact materials exchange. Starting a faculty stipend program to develop/adopt/adapt no-cost course materials.
  4. **GSBE:** Purchasing software to access quantitative information database services for students and research faculty. Offering scholarship funding for HIEE activities including internationalization/study abroad experiences. Funding to support mentored consulting projects that help students build their resumes by working in their field. Equipping residence halls with 3D printing and entrepreneurship experiences.
  5. **CSBS:** Offering scholarship funding to provide clinical experience for students. Purchasing lab equipment, and purchasing lab software that can be accessed remotely. Funding to recoup lost rent for the internship apartment in Washington, DC.
  6. **EAST:** Funding to augment the learning management system supporting the CS Flex program. Funding the development of support classes, including Gen Ed, Science, Math, etc., to mirror the CS Flex scheduling. Equipping a maker space mobile lab to support net-zero home building. Financial support for the summer PREP program.

7. **HIPS:** Scholarship funding for the HIEE program developed by the Student Success Steering Committee. Funding to support immersive pedagogy development experiences for faculty/adjuncts. Funding to allow the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 faculty cohorts to attend this year's New Faculty Retreat.
  8. **DCHP:** Moving Nursing faculty to 12-month contracts to increase program admissions by 300+ students. IT support for simulation equipment, which substitutes for student clinical placements. Funding to support increasing advising staff.
  9. **Combined Dean Request:** Two multi-lingual advisors per college to increase outreach and access.
  10. **Academic Programs and Assessment:** Purchasing Tableau software used in data disaggregation and distribution. Funding to pay for student placement testing. Funding for embedded tutors in Math and English gateway courses. Purchasing Chromebooks for the summer bridge programs, some which address students who are close to a higher placement score. Funding faculty stipends for participation in inclusive excellence/course redesign trainings which address underserved student learning gaps.
- iv. **Missing Grades:** Bruce asked deans to help encourage faculty to submit missing grades ASAP.
  - v. **Course Enrollment:** Bruce asked deans to review the Course Enrollment Dashboard for courses that could use additional sections. Summer enrollments are encouraging, but Fall 2021 enrollments are lower than Fall 2019.

### 3. Academic Support Discussions

#### a. Mandatory New Student Orientation (Bruce Bowen, Leslie Park & Margarita Vara)

- i. Bruce introduced Leslie and Margarita and offered the history of mandatory new student orientation at WSU. Margarita explained the goals of New Student Orientation (NSO), Weber Welcome, and Supporter Events. She presented data showing higher first term GPA and higher rates of persistence to second semester among students completing NSO over their non-completing peers. They propose to make the NSO online modules mandatory starting in Summer 2022. Resources needed include IT support, a major overhaul of the NSO Dashboard, and commitment from departments/colleges to participate in Weber Welcome. Weber Welcome is highly encouraged, but not required. If NSO is mandatory, Weber Welcome will also become larger, requiring additional time and resources. Margarita & Leslie formed a group to discuss anticipated outcomes which include: focusing on exploring WSU, acknowledging the newly admitted students, engaging students, and transitioning them to campus. They emphasized the increased demands on events they anticipate if NSO is mandatory. The group discussed assessment information embedded in the online modules, mitigating potential enrollment barriers, technology access concerns, and offering opportunities for completion of the online modules using campus computer labs in order to offer social connections. Deans' Council also discussed moving the NSO process year-round, with an eye on assessment after 1 year. Deans' Council requested support data and will communicate suggestions to Bruce by next week. Upon approval, Bruce plans to present this move to President's Council.

#### b. Canvas Course Setting & Registration (Brian Stecklein)

- i. Brian spoke about the current settings that allow Canvas course publication dates to be adjusted manually, and the implications of manual changes on students, faculty, and financial aid. Publication dates are tied to Banner which follows the approved academic calendar. Brian explained that any manual changes are automatically rolled back nightly by the Banner update process. Deans' Council discussed how to balance giving students early access with how to address equity concerns about students who are unfamiliar with university processes or who do not have equipment to access Canvas. Communication options were also discussed. Deans' Council suggested that materials be developed to

share communication options to faculty, and that exceptions to opening classes early be communicated with chairs/deans before being opened by WSU Online.

**c. New Faculty Onboarding (Brenda Kowalewski, Yas Simonian, & Brian Stecklein)**

- i.** Deans' Council discussed deans' involvement at the New Faculty Retreat. New Faculty Onboarding will begin with a virtual session on July 12<sup>th</sup>, with hopes of an in-person retreat to be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.

**d. Move from Chi Tester to Canvas Quizzes (Brenda Kowalewski, Yas Simonian, & Brian Stecklein)**

- i.** Deans' Council discussed if incoming faculty should be trained on Canvas Quizzes rather than transitioning from Chi Tester to Canvas Quizzes next year. Brian suggested that new faculty using departmental test banks be trained on Chi Tester as the transition team is not yet prepared to migrate departmental test banks. Deans' Council, barring exceptions for test banks, encouraged training new faculty on Canvas Quizzes.