

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

Attending: Ravi Krovi, Brad Mortensen, Eric Amsel, Laine Berghout, Bruce Bowen, Andrea Easter-Pilcher, Bret Ellis, David Ferro, Kristin Hadley, Wendy Holliday, Brenda Kowalewski, Betsy Mennell, Brett Perozzi, Julie Rich, Yas Simonian, Julie Snowball, Brian Stecklein, James Taylor, Yimin Wang

Guests: Gail Niklason, Jessica Oyler, Beth Rhodes

Excused: Adrienne Andrews, Ben Ferney, Matthew Mouritsen, Norm Tarbox, Deborah Uman

1. Approval of May 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- a. The minutes were approved as written.

2. Provost Updates – Ravi

- a. Ravi thanked the council for their patience with and work on HEERF II funding projects. He explained that many policies have been approved or are in the workflow process and that HEERF III spending deadlines have been moved up to April 2022.
- b. Ravi asked deans to thank the department chairs/program directors for their work on Strategic Planning Reports. He hopes to follow the same review process used in summer 2021, focusing on Interdisciplinarity; Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion; and Retention & Completion.
- c. Ravi spoke about retention rates and hopes to develop targeted and intentional strategies, which may also impact resource allocation, including HEERF III.

3. Academic Agenda/Policy Discussions

a. Student survey results – Jessica

- i. Jessica spoke about survey results, including students' desire to have online classes and requests for access to student services. She noted that the requests for online classes mirror waitlist data, and explained that the students' comments highlight their diverse needs and their expectations for classes going forward. She offered to share data with Deans' Council. Jessica also stated that the survey data supports watching waitlists for the need for additional sections. Deans' Council discussed breaking down the data by class, and by major/college. Of those not yet enrolled, 43% of students are looking for online/virtual options. Brad strongly encouraged prioritizing serving student needs, rather than focusing on compliance with in-person course percentage requirements.

b. Fall 21 Enrollment discussion - Bruce, Deans

- i. Deans' Council discussed the current student enrollment numbers for Fall 2021. Yas & Kristin noted that many of the DCHP programs along with some MCOE programs have not yet completed their admissions processes. Bruce shared current enrollment figures and offered an update about Admissions efforts and asked deans for their support in creative outreach efforts. He also described efforts directed at continuing students who have not yet registered. Bruce also spoke about existing marketing campaigns. Bruce asked that deans support these efforts by encouraging retention advisors to focus on their retention efforts, checking for courses that could use additional sections, supporting new student orientations, and contacting newly admitted students. Bruce will send verbiage to deans to help with these efforts.
- ii. Bruce spoke about state stimulus funds targeting students negatively impacted by the pandemic. The funds are directed at SP 2020 or later students who were enrolled and stopped out, or who applied but never attended. Enrollment Services is working on a proposal to request funding to target these student groups. This funding, if awarded, must be used in a very compressed time frame. There are narrow parameters for prioritization of use, which also impact the potential for bottlenecking of financial aid processing,

course demand, and advising resources. Brad anticipates that WSU will receive some funding, and recommends planning for these impacts. Deans' Council discussed proactive efforts for addressing the needs of the targeted students, including concentrated advising work, leveraging peer leaders, and a pilot program of college success mentors. Brett spoke about the need to coordinate peer programs across campus and about Student Affairs' efforts. Eric spoke about work in his area to support placement testing, 8 sections of FastStart core/breadth classes that offer built-in support/mentoring, and summer bridge programs. Yas spoke about persistence rates of cohorted DCHP students and about recruiting students to help support local healthcare partners' pledges to hire a more diverse workforce.

c. HIEE Strategy – Brenda

- i. Brenda presented a plan for increasing High Impact Educational Experiences, providing context about the Wildcat Advantage Program. She described the vision, mission, student outcomes (which mirror GenEd and NACE competencies), faculty & staff outcomes, and about incentives for students, faculty & staff. She asked for deans' feedback on faculty incentives. Deans' Council discussed the increased faculty workload required when counting HIEE by experiences vs. by hours, student TA/RA/employee support, faculty members' need for course redesign time, how to encourage faculty engagement beyond incentives, involving Teaching & Learning Center programs, and the impact of HIEE in the tenure process. Deans' Council encouraged data-informed decisions in relation to HIEE across campus, and suggested forming a cohort of those teaching gateway courses to discuss how to offer HIEE in large classes. Brenda requested volunteers for a group further examining faculty incentives.

d. Accreditation update - Eric, Gail

- i. Eric and Gail reminded Deans' Council about the upcoming 7th-year accreditation site visit. Materials addressing one of the two standards were submitted and reviewed in May. All of the issues raised have been, or will be addressed. A draft of the report addressing the second standard will be distributed to Deans' Council shortly. Eric & Gail shared the Objectives, Indicators, Thresholds, and Mission Fulfillment document with Deans' Council. Gail announced that program-level objectives for associate and certificate programs will be added to the website that list program objectives for bachelor and master's programs. WSU plans to include this information in future academic catalogs in an effort to make it more accessible to students. Eric also described plans to share WSU's story in accreditation reports, using this as an opportunity to close the loop in a coordinated way.

4. Academic Support Discussions

a. Badging - Beth Rhoades and Brian Stecklein

- i. This discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

b. University Advancement Updates (Betsy Mennell)

- i. Betsy shared updates about the following areas in her division:
 1. *Alumni*: Progress continues in moving toward the new alumni model discussed in previous meetings.
 2. *Upcoming Events*: Betsy announced the Lindquist Pops & Fireworks on Sunday, July 11th, the Summer Campus Picnic on Tuesday July 20th, and Back to School Breakfast on Monday, August 23rd.
- ii. *Development*: Betsy expressed thanks for those working on the ongoing hiring process for development directors.
- iii. *Marketing & Communication*: MarComm is working on student outreach, and a public opinion survey is in process.
- iv. *Campaign training*: Training for those who work with development directors will be held on Monday, September 27th with Dan Saftig of Marts & Lundy.

c. USHE Educational Reengagement and High Demand Scholarships – Ravi

