

**Deans' Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 1, 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, Ben Ferney, David Ferro, Kristin Hadley, 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:** Beth Rhoades, Chaz Steimel

**Excused:**

**1. Approval of August 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

- a. The minutes were approved as written.

**2. Provost Updates – Ravi**

- a. Ravi offered updates on the following topics:

- i. **College Opening Meetings:** Ravi expressed thanks for invitations extended to him attend and to speak with faculty.
- ii. **Audits:** Bryce Barker, Director of Internal Audit, requested that Ravi ask Deans' Council to work with their support staff to ensure that p-cards are not used to purchase software subscriptions and to encourage equipment tracking.
- iii. **Student Success Team Leads:** Ravi thanked everyone for their help with developing these new positions. He asked that any deans who have not yet submitted names, please do so ASAP.
- iv. **Never Attended Starfish Flag:** Ravi spoke about the email he sent to those teaching general education and developmental classes. Eric reported that 70+ flags have already been raised.
- v. **Spring Schedule:** Ravi is hoping to know more soon about the spring schedule. He will share information as it becomes available.
- vi. **Bret Ellis:** Bret notified the committee about upcoming staff changes in his division. Bret hopes to continue sharing information about restructuring this part of the IT Division at a future date. He also thanked Deans' Council for their help and patience with the new wireless onboarding process.
- vii. **HEERF 2/3:** Ravi requested that deans submit their requests and suggestions by Thursday, September 2, 2021.

**3. Committee Updates Q&A (All)**

- a. Ravi reminded the group about the update requests included in the agenda. No questions were asked about the updates. Betsy briefly reviewed the MarComm updates.

**4. Academic Agenda/Policy Discussions**

**a. Badging (Brian Stecklein & Beth Rhoades)**

- i. Brian & Beth discussed non-credit bearing badging development efforts in their division, including how to serve those who are changing their career path but who may not necessarily need or want an additional bachelor's degree. Beth explained the historical context of digital badges, the development process on campus including acquiring and deploying Portfolium, industry requests, and the anatomy of a badge. Beth showed a current badge and described the process for creating a digital badge/pathway in Portfolium—which includes reviews by the WSU Instructional Design Team. She also shared the Badge Development Template and explained that badges can be used on social media such as on a LinkedIn profile. Brian spoke about how badges could be used as a

pathway for students, including developing stackable badges. Brian also spoke about how the faculty member who developed the current badge was able to pull information from their existing curriculum. Bruce spoke about Enrollment Services Divisions' efforts to align the development of for-credit badges with the non-credit badges. He explained that for-credit badge development involve Faculty Senate approval. Brian also spoke about the vetting process for non-credit bearing badges which involves chair and dean approval. Deans' Council discussed assessment requirements for badges versus certificate programs and the need to explicitly define the differences between non-credit/transcripted work, badges, certificates, and degrees.

**b. Tim Renick Follow up (All)**

- i. Ravi facilitated a discussion about lessons learned from Dr. Renick's presentation and how they can be applied at WSU. Suggestions included:
  1. Ensuring that we continually ask if we are creating problems, and if so, how we can solve them,
  2. Supporting and serving the needs of junior and senior students, such as providing microgrants directly to students facing financial roadblocks,
  3. Removing known barriers to completion,
  4. Providing early interventions,
  5. Establishing learning communities of meta-majors,
  6. Examining the impact large general education and introduction classes taught by part-time faculty,
  7. Providing smooth handoffs, especially as helped through meta-majors,
  8. Rethinking/redesigning available meta-majors,
  9. Providing breadth of instruction without harming students' progress in directed majors,
  10. Removing curricular barriers,
  11. Identifying red-flag indicators of potential academic challenges, and
  12. Embracing WSU's ability to educate students who are not usually targeted by flagship institutions.
- ii. Deans' Council expressed excitement for potential positive change and recognized that WSU is well-positioned to make progress on these initiatives.

**c. Deep Tech proposal status (James Taylor, Andrea Easter-Pilcher, David Ferro, Matthew Mouritsen)**

- i. James explained that proposals will focus on machine learning, autonomous vehicles, and secure computing, stating that they are intended to target tech-industry foci. He feels that the proposals are strongly positioned and work collaboratively across colleges.

**5. Academic Support Discussions**

**a. Vaccination requirement implementation (Brett Perozzi)**

- i. Brett offered updates about the student vaccination requirement implementation. His group will be developing a Qualtrics survey to collect vaccination information from students, possibly allowing for upload of vaccination status. An option to identify an exemption will be included. Brett's group is working to incorporate data from the Utah State Health Department to allow for better targeting of students with missing data. Discussions continue around how to include/exclude students who are concurrent enrollment, continuing education, and students who are 100% online. MarComm is currently drafting a communication to the campus community with more information. Deans' Council discussed plans for Covid testing in the coming semester, and how to work though making sure students are not singled out because of vaccination status. Deans' Council also spoke about how to make the system easy enough that it does not become a barrier for students. Members of the group also asked for information about a possible vaccination requirement for faculty and staff. Information is not available at this

time. Brett's group is also working to get aggregated data from the Utah Health Department about student vaccination rates.

**b. SSSC Changes (Brett Perozzi and Ravi Krovi)**

- i. Ravi spoke about the creation of new charges and membership of the Student Success sub-committees, including adding the college student success team leads. Ravi & Brett will meet with the co-chairs to review the purpose and charges of each sub-committee and to ensure that they align with the strategic plan. Ravi & Brett also hope to empower the sub-committees with needed metrics.

**c. USHE Metrics (Chaz Steimel)**

- i. Chaz spoke about the relation between the WSU strategic plan, the USHE/UBHE strategic plan and attainment measures, and USHE/UBHE's request for goal setting from WSU. Chaz explained that UBHE has three areas of focus: Access, Timely Completion, and High Yield Awards (high demand, high wage earning). He used a document developed by Brad to compare the UBHE goals to WSU's Strategic Plan, and reviewed the associated attainment goals. Chaz explained that the High Yield Awards may be the biggest stretch for WSU. He also displayed recommended five-year metrics as approved by the WSU Board of Trustees. These metrics will be put forward for UBHE approval in their September meeting. Chaz will share a list of High Yield Award programs with Ravi for distribution. He also spoke about the relation between the metrics and expected performance funding models. Ravi hopes to roll up college level metrics into an update that can be provided to UBHE.

**6. Other Business**

- a. **Block Party:** Laine requested that deans reach out to those running Block Party booths to ensure that students and staff who are uncomfortable facilitating tables have other options.
- b. **Masking:** Deans' Council expressed support for communicating and modeling CDC guidelines regarding masking.

## Committee Updates

### Faculty Senate Committees

Committee and Liaison	Updates
ARCC - Brian Stecklein Charge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9/1/21- We have charges but no meeting scheduled at this time</li> <li>• 8/4/21 - n/a</li> </ul>
ASSA- Matthew Mouritsen Charge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9/1/21- Awaiting charges. First meeting is on 9/3/21.</li> <li>• 8/4/21- Awaiting charges.</li> </ul>
APAFT- Julie Rich Charge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9/1/21- Awaiting charges - will be meeting 9/8/21.</li> <li>• 8/4/21- n/a</li> </ul>
CRAO- Yas Simonian Charge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9/1/21- n/a</li> <li>• 8/4/21- n/a</li> </ul>
Environmental Issues- David Ferro Charge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9/1/21- n/a</li> <li>• 8/4/21- A few members and others have worked behind the scenes to promote sustainability in Ogden focused currently on HB411: Justin Owen, Jen Bodine, Brenda</li> </ul>

	K., Mark Stevenson, Brad M., Bonnie Christiansen. Retreat conducted 8/18. Charges at ExCom.
GEIAC- Eric Amsel Charge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/1/21-Charges include bringing the new Diversity proposal to the Faculty Senate and reviewing the assessment work being done in concurrent enrollment Gen Ed classes. All this above the traditional GEIAC requirement to provide formative feedback on assessments of half the Gen Ed classes.</li> <li>8/4/21- Waiting to confirm charges that will propose a new Diversity requirement.</li> </ul>
RS&PG- Brenda Kowalewski Charge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/1/21- Committee hasn't met yet this fall semester - meets Sept 10</li> <li>8/4/21- Travel grants due September 5th</li> </ul>
SBBFP- Andrea Easter-Pilcher Charge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/1/21- have not met yet</li> <li>8/4/21- n/a</li> </ul>
TL- Deborah Uman Charge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/1/21- we haven't met yet</li> <li>8/4/21- n/a</li> </ul>
UCC- Wendy Holliday Charge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/1/21- Nothing yet.</li> <li>8/4/21- n/a</li> </ul>
Program Assessment - Kristin Hadley Charge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/1/21- Nothing yet</li> <li>8/4/21- n/a</li> </ul>

### Student Success Steering Committee Liaison Updates

Committee and Liaison	Updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/1/21- SSSC restructuring - in agenda</li> </ul>

### University Advancement Updates (Betsy Mennell)

Area	Updates
Marketing & Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/1/21- Highlighting four Utah Jazz Scholarship recipients in this fall's incoming class. An overview of these four students will appear in the fall issue of Wildcat, along with more in depth profiles of each that can be used and promoted by the respective colleges. The Utah Jazz Scholarships are awarded to first generation college students who are from underrepresented populations and can demonstrate financial need.</li> </ul>
Alumni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/1/21- Oral history project elicited more than 6,000 alumni stories.</li> </ul>
Development/Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/1/21- New Development Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Danielle Collier (Academic Affairs and MCOE) starts 9/7</li> <li>Beth Orgeron (Stewart Library and CoS) starts 9/13</li> </ul> </li> <li>Tim Wilson, Prospect Research Coordinator starts 9/7</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ currently Director of Prospect Management and Research with Intermountain Healthcare Foundation</li> <li>○ formerly Associate Director of Prospect Development at Harvard Business School</li> <li>• YTD FY22: \$1,513,535 v. FY21: \$1,206,213</li> <li>• Marts &amp; Lundy Campaign Training 9/27. Dan Saftig will provide overview of campaign, process for identifying fundraising priorities</li> <li>• Campaign counting started FY21: \$22,557,152 raised</li> </ul>
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9/1/21- 100 people registered for tailgate for 9/2 football game at University of Utah</li> <li>• 9/11/21 - Tailgate for football game at Dixie State</li> <li>• 9/18/21 - Mount Ogden Hike</li> <li>• October 11-16 Homecoming week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10/11 - Past President &amp; Trustees Luncheon</li> <li>○ 10/12 - Retired Faculty/Staff Luncheon</li> <li>○ 10/15 - National Advisory Council meeting</li> <li>○ 10/16 - WSU Salutes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>