

September 6, 2007

TO: Provost's Council

FROM: Judith M. Bowman  
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SUBJ: Provost's Council Agenda for Tuesday, September 11, 2007

The Provost's Council will meet on Tuesday, September 11 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Board Room in Koch Hall. The following agenda items will be discussed.

1. Approval of the August 28 minutes (see attachment, p. 1-3)
2. Classrooms Now and In the Future  
Russ Pearson
3. Marketing and Publications  
John Broderick
4. Other Business

PROVOST'S COUNCIL  
September 11, 2007  
Minutes

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, from 8:30 until 10:45 in the Board Room in Koch Hall. Those present were Tom Isenhour (Chair), Ali Ardalani, Oktay Baysal, Nancy Cooley, Chandra de Silva, Bill Drewry, Bill Graves, Ginny O'Herron, Phil Langlais, Chris Platsoucas, and Charles Wilson. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. Budget

Provost Isenhour updated the Council on budget reductions, informing the deans that he had to adopt the higher of the two reduction amounts. Even so, the total reduction required a less than 5 percent sacrifice of each college's overall budget.

2. Marketing and Publications

John Broderick, VP for Institutional Advancement, presented to the deans a plan to incorporate college-specific information in upcoming issues of the Alumni Magazine. In the inaugural issue (winter 2008), VP Broderick will pay for the expenses, at a cost of \$.15 per graduate, per issue. Each college will get a college-specific, two-page wrap that will serve, in essence, as a direct-mail marketing tool. VP Broderick's staff will write and design the content. In addition, this wrap can be transformed later into a one-page college newsletter that deans can use as their discretion. The magazine will also accommodate on the cover a college-specific caption of some kind. After the inaugural "wrap" issue, VP Broderick is asking that colleges share the cost.

3. Classrooms Now and in the Future

Russ Pearson updated the Council on classroom usage figures for the past year, and he reminded the deans about the requirements mandated by SCHEV for efficient overall utilization. A very spirited discussion ensued concerning the disconnect between faculty perceptions about availability and adequacy of classroom space *and* Russ' figures showing underutilization. Notable comments included:

- SCHEV should revise its formula to reflect the realities of twenty-first century instruction and representative clientele
- Faculty, especially Chairs, should be apprised of rules/regulations/constraints as determined by SCHEV
- ODU should revisit the issue of dedicated classroom space on at least a three-year cycle.

- Universities should be free to determine how it defines lab and classroom space and use such space as it deems necessary to meet pedagogical demands.
- ODU should remain sensitive to the human dimensions of classroom scheduling: faculty needs and responsibilities, as well as student (customer) needs and demands.
- Deans are given mixed messages from the University: create smaller, student-friendly classes, on the one hand; schedule larger lectures to use faculty “more efficiently,” on the other hand. The issue of *U.S. News and World Reports* rankings also figured into this concern.

The group agreed that the Provost should appoint a faculty-represented subcommittee of the University Space Committee to address *classroom* space issues in particular.

#### 4. Graduate Studies

Vice Provost Langlais distributed information from the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools on several scholarly awards. He urged the deans to nominate appropriate individuals for the awards. Vice Provost Langlais also announced the fall iteration of the Graduate Administrative Workshops, to be held October 4 and 12. The morning sessions will be for new GPDs, and the afternoon sessions will be for veteran GPDs.

#### 5. Constitution Day

Dean de Silva announced the Constitution Day event to be held on September 20, 2007, in the evening. This year’s theme is “The Constitution and the Rights of the Accused.”

#### 6. Distance Learning

Vice Provost Cooley provided an update of the TELETECHNET budget reduction plan.

#### 7. The August 28 minutes were approved.