

October 9, 2008

TO: Provost's Council

FROM: Judith M. Bowman  
Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Studies

SUBJ: Provost's Council Agenda for Tuesday, October 14, 2008

The Provost's Council will meet on Tuesday, October 14 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 September 23 minutes (see attachment, p. 1-2)
2. Enrollment Management – Alice McAdory and Marty Sharpe
3. Overview of Distance Learning – Long-term and Short-term Planning – Nancy Cooley
4. Level 2 Academic Measures – Marty Sharpe

PROVOST'S COUNCIL  
October 14, 2008  
Minutes

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Koch Hall Board Room. Those present were Carol Simpson (Chair), M'Hammed Abdous, Ali Ardalan, Andrew Balas, Nancy Cooley, Chandra de Silva, Sharon Judge, Philip Langlais, Alice McAdory, Ginny O'Herron, Mike Overstreet, Marty Sharpe, Linda Vahala, Sandra Waters, and Charles Wilson.

1. The September 23 minutes were approved.
2. Enrollment Management – Alice McAdory and Marty Sharpe

Drs. McAdory and Sharpe updated the Council on the work of the Strategic Enrollment Management Committees. Dr. McAdory explained the committee structure (there is a central Steering Committee and 13 Subcommittees), and relayed the overall meeting schedule of the committees. Drs. McAdory and Sharpe then provided specific information on the various committees, particularly the Data and Assessment Committee and the Customer Service Committee. Some committees have already begun to formulate preliminary recommendations. Dr. Sharpe indicated that the Budget Committee and the Data/Assessment Committee are working together to model some different scenarios regarding admissions standards and potential tuition increases. This is an example of how committees are coordinating their work.

Dean Chandra de Silva expressed some concern about the process. He wants to ensure that there is ample conversation between the administration and the deans about admissions targets so that the deans can prepare their respective colleges for the students whom they must serve and for whom they are responsible. Other deans/associate deans chimed in that the workload issue is central to such a conversation.

As Drs. McAdory and Sharpe wrapped up their report, Provost Simpson noted that the work of these committees will segue nicely into the overall University strategic planning effort that will begin in the spring.

3. Overview of Distance Learning – Short-term Planning – Nancy Cooley

Vice Provost Cooley presented a preliminary Enrollment Expansion Plan. Because of increased student demand for more video-streamed and online courses, the Distance Learning operation is shifting offerings from the current satellite mode (which has already witnessed a precipitous decline in enrollments).

At present, the plan includes three different scenarios for increasing enrollments. In Scenario 1, departments would agree to increase the caps of certain courses that have had a history of backlog. With sufficient resources for hiring adjuncts or adjusting the teaching schedules of full-time faculty, this scenario would go into effect in spring 2009.

However, time is of the essence, so Dr. Cooley must meet straightaway with deans and chairs to determine the feasibility of this initiative. Dr. Cooley believes that this scenario has the potential to add 5311 registrations. In Scenario 2, departments would be encouraged to expand existing DL offerings (for example, if a department already offers courses online, that department might add other courses so that students could complete a full degree or certificate in the DL delivery mode. This initiative would go into effect in fall 2009 and add (possibly) 520 new students. In Scenario 3, departments would be asked to consider adding new programs to the DL delivery mode, and this initiative would go into effect in fall 2010 and would yield (possibly) 1703 new students.

Dean de Silva expressed concern again that there be ongoing dialogue between the colleges and the administration about increased enrollments, whether at a distance or live. Dean Balas inquired how the institution might increase international DL enrollments.

4. Level 2 Academic Measures – Marty Sharpe

Provost Simpson will email the deans information on this issue.

5. Budget

Provost Simpson reminded the Council that more budget reductions are to be expected after Governor Kaine releases his budget on December 17. In addition to our current 5% reduction, we will have more reductions that will total a double-digit reduction for 2008-2010. All hiring is frozen, and each potential search will be reviewed on a case-by-case, mission-critical basis.