

May 7, 2009

TO: Provost's Council

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

SUBJ: Provost's Council Agenda for Tuesday, May 12, 2009

The Provost's Council will meet on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 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 April 28, 2009 minutes (see attachment, p. 1-3)
2. Recommendation to Review and Evaluate the Standard Course Management System
Rusty Waterfield and M'Hammed Abdous
3. Implementation of Revisions to Grade Forgiveness Policy (see attachment, p. 4-5)
4. Faculty Senate Issue 2008/9-19, Student Disciplinary Policies – Revisions (see attachment, p. 6-9)
5. Faculty Senate Issue 2008/9-10, Eminent Scholar Revision for Faculty Handbook (see attachment, p. 10-12)
6. Proposed Policy on Appeal of Undergraduate and Graduate Admission Decisions (see attachment, p. 13-14)
7. Old Dominion University Inclusiveness Statement (see attachment, p. 15)
8. Update on Strategic Planning
9. Modeling and Simulation Graduate Certificates (see attachment, p. 16)
10. Courtesy Appointments (see attachment, p. 17)
11. Announcements/Reminders

PROVOST'S COUNCIL
May 12, 2009
Minutes

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, May 12 from 8:30-10:15 a.m. in the Board Room in Koch Hall. Those present were Carol Simpson (Chair), M'Hammed Abdous, Nancy Bagranoff, Andrew Balas, Andy Casiello, Chandra de Silva, Bill Graves, Phil Langlais, Ginny O'Herron, Chair Platsoucas, Marty Sharpe, Mary Swartz, Linda Vahala, Geneva Walker-Johnson, Rusty Waterfield, and Charles Wilson. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. The April 28 minutes were approved.
2. Recommendation to Review and Evaluate the Standard Course Management System

Rusty Waterfield and M'Hammed Abdous discussed the recommendation from OCCS and CLT to review the course management system. The University has used Blackboard for a number of years, and it was felt other options should be reviewed and considered. New commercial systems are now available, and Open Source solutions have been developed. Open Source is a community of developers that can influence product features and development. Going with Open Source would involve a reallocation of license costs, with the University providing more technical and development staff. The timeline for the review process is as follows.

Preliminary background and research – Summer 2009
Committee selection – Summer 2009
Conduct survey – Fall 2009
Pilot and proof of concepts – Latter part of Fall 2009
Presentation of committee's initial findings – Early Spring 2010
Open forum – Early Spring 2010
Decision – Mid-spring 2010

Carol Simpson recommended that students be involved in the process. She also suggested that the system selected should be cross platform. Nancy Bagranoff asked that indirect costs of the system be considered. Bill Graves suggested that distance learning be involved in the process. He also asked that the cost of the system not negatively impact faculty lines.

3. Implementation of Revisions to Grade Forgiveness Policy

Members of the Provost's Council discussed the implementation of the changes to the grade forgiveness policy. Implementation is scheduled to be retroactive with students allowed only five repeats using grade forgiveness beginning Fall 2009. Several of the deans expressed concern about implementing the changes retroactively. After discussion, Council members agreed to revise the implementation procedures and allow all students a total of five course repeats using grade forgiveness beginning Fall 2009 no matter how

many times they used grade forgiveness previously. Mary Swartz will communicate the implementation changes to students.

4. Faculty Senate Issue 2008/9-19, Student Disciplinary Policies – Revisions

Council members discussed the recommendation from the Faculty Senate for revisions to the Student Disciplinary Policies. The revisions were proposed initially by Mary Swartz and forwarded to the Senate for consideration. The main recommendation is to remove disciplinary comments from the transcript. Ms. Swartz noted that best practices for records management in higher education from her professional association indicate that only academic comments should be noted on the transcript. Bill Graves and Geneva Walker-Johnson expressed concern about the removal of disciplinary comments from the transcript. However, after discussion, Council members agreed that the transcript is the official academic record and should include only academic comments.

A second revision proposed by the Senate states that the reason for the academic dishonesty notation shall be removed at the end of the sanction period or when the student graduates, whichever comes first. Council members felt the language was confusing. Following the meeting, Ms. Swartz recommended the following language instead.

A student who violates the Code of Student Conduct may be subject to the sanctions described below. Sanctions resulting from an act of academic dishonesty including suspension, dismissal and/or grade sanction(s) will be recorded on the student's official and unofficial University transcript pursuant to the procedures described in section VIII.B. except for a student who meets graduation requirements while the probation period is in effect. In this case, the ending date for the sanction period will be set to the date immediately preceding the student's graduation date. Additionally, an "academic dishonesty" comment will normally be applied, remain on the student's academic record and continue to be published on the student's academic transcript until the student has completed procedures described in section VIII.B. A student who is suspended for any reason will not be eligible to graduate until the suspension has been resolved. Disciplinary probation and suspension are not recorded on the academic transcript. All sanctions, both academic dishonesty and disciplinary, will be recorded in the student's discipline file, which will be maintained by the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

The Council's recommendation will be forwarded to President Broderick.

5. Faculty Senate Issue 2008/9-10, Eminent Scholar Revision for Faculty Handbook

Council members reviewed and approved the eminent scholar revisions recommended by the Faculty Senate. The changes add information to the policy dealing with eminent scholar vacancies, the selection of committee members, conflict of interest, and the organization of nomination materials. In addition, the date for the submission of

nomination materials has been changed from January 15 to February 15. The Council's recommendation will be forwarded to President Broderick.

6. Proposed Policy on Appeal of Undergraduate and Graduate Admission Decisions

The proposed policy on appeal of graduate admission decisions was developed by the Graduate Administrators Council. Council members endorsed the proposed policy. The policy on appeal of undergraduate admission decisions is a revision of an existing policy. The revision consisted of updating the titles of the individuals to whom the appeal can be made – the Director of Admissions, the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, the Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Council members questioned whether four levels of appeal are necessary. Carol Simpson will consult with John Broderick about the levels for undergraduate appeals. Following that, the graduate policy will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for review, and the undergraduate policy will be sent to the Senate for informational purposes.

7. Old Dominion University Inclusiveness Statement

Phil Langlais described the inclusiveness statement. The statement was developed by the Graduate Administrators Council in response to the need to have such a statement to qualify for federal funds. Council members endorsed the statement and felt it should be more universal. For the time being, the statement will be included on the Graduate Studies web site. Carol Simpson asked the deans to consider ways to make the statement more inclusive for undergraduate students, staff, curricula, and other areas.

8. Update on Strategic Planning

Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

9. Modeling and Simulation Graduate Certificates

Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

10. Courtesy Appointments

Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

11. Announcements

- A. Carol Simpson reminded the deans of the opportunity to tap into the new GI Bill. Colleges should expand their offerings as appropriate. Andy Casiello will ask Dave Chase to send more information to the deans.