

September 18, 2009

TO: Provost's Council

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

SUBJ: Provost's Council Agenda for Tuesday, September 22, 2009

The Provost's Council will meet on Tuesday, September 22, 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 September 9 minutes (see attachment, p. 1-3)
2. Higher Education Restructuring – Input from College Plans: Deadline October 22 (see attachment, p. 4-10)  
Marty Sharpe
3. GTA Training (see attachments, p. 11-17)  
Phil Langlais
4. COACHE (The Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education) (see attachment, p. 18-19) – 9:00 a.m.  
Worth Pickering
5. Media Relations Issues in the Colleges
6. Timetable for General Education Implementation (see attachment, p. 20)
7. Announcements/Reminders
  - A. Submit suggested programs for review by September 30

PROVOST'S COUNCIL  
September 22, 2009  
Minutes

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Koch Hall Board Room. Those present were Carol Simpson (Chair), Nancy Bagranoff, Andrew Balas, Oktay Baysal, David Branch, Andy Casiello, Paul Champagne, Chandra de Silva, Phil Langlais, Ginny O'Herron, Worth Pickering, Chris Platsoucas, Marty Sharpe, Mary Swartz, and Charles Wilson.

1. The September 9 minutes were approved.
2. Update on Class Roster Photos

Provost Carol Simpson conferred with Student Government President Carl Pucci on the use of photos on class rosters. The Student Government Association (GSA) is supportive of the measure, which will now move forward, with specific guidelines provided to faculty on matters of confidentiality.

3. Higher Education Restructuring Act – College Plans

Vice Provost Marty Sharpe reminded the deans that it is time to submit their six-year academic plans, per SCHEV guidelines. This past spring the University submitted its updated six-year enrollment projections, and now it is time to submit the academic plans and ultimately the accompanying budget plan. The University must assure the State Council that it is working to achieve the goals of the Higher Education Restructuring Act. The academic colleges must provide a brief history of what has been done in the past two years and then submit plans for the next three biennia (for a total of six years). These plans must also address Institutional Performance Standards (IPS). Vice Provost Sharpe will provide to the deans the plans submitted during the last submission cycle, along with the previous IPS. She will also meet with the persons from the colleges charged with drafting the plans so as to provide assistance and guidance. The deadline for submission to Vice Provost Sharpe's office is Friday, October 30, 2009.

4. SACS

Vice Provost Sharpe alerted the deans that the Provost will be notifying them to recommend a faculty lead to oversee the SACS review process. This person will be needed for 2.5 years. It is important for the entire faculty to be fully engage in the re-accreditation process.

5. GTA Training

Vice Provost Langlais explained recommendations he is making regarding the training of GTAs. The goals of these recommendations are to improve the training of GTAs and to accelerate the acculturation process for them. After researching best practices at

comparable institutions, Vice Provost Langlais is recommending a comprehensive approach to GTA training. The orientation, implementation, and evaluation of GTA training should occur in the academic colleges and in the departments, while university-level, policy information will continue to be disseminated from the Office of Graduate Studies. Vice Provost Langlais will convene the appropriate associate deans who will then take the lead on this issue. The deans concurred that this is a good idea. Dean Baysal asked for confirmation that the ultimate model for GTA training will be hybrid, with the academic colleges and the Office of Graduate Studies participating. Dean Bagranoff asked about the availability of adjunct training. Acting Assistant Vice President Casiello noted that the Center for Learning Technologies (CLT) is developing a substantial library of information that can be targeted to different teaching audiences. Provost Simpson thanked, in his absence, M'Hammed Abdous, Director of CLT, for spearheading the Provost's Conversations on Teaching symposia.

#### 6. COACHE (The Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education)

Assistant Vice President Pickering explained the COACHE initiative. It is a survey created by a consulting firm in Massachusetts, the chief goal of which is to ensure the success of tenure-track faculty. In addition to ODU, the following Virginia institutions will participate: Christopher Newport University, James Madison University, the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia Tech. Old Dominion will use the ten questions already endorsed by SCHEV, and 135 pre-tenure ODU faculty will be asked to complete the anonymous survey. Asst. VP Pickering asked that the deans encourage the faculty to participate so that the upper-administration will be apprised of the issues that concern the faculty and that may impede their progress toward tenure. It was agreed that the deans, the chairs, and the faculty senate will communicate to the faculty the importance of completing the survey. Dean Balas asked that untenured associate professors be included in the list of faculty to be asked to participate. Dean de Silva asked if there are successful interventions available for further study and possible emulation. Asst. VP Pickering indicated that ODU will have access to comparative data with 4 or 5 peer institutions. Dean Platsoucas expressed concern over tenure-track faculty who are required to teach a host of different classes during their probationary period. Such bad practices need to be curtailed, suggested Dean Platsoucas. Dean Baysal offered that 80% of tenure success is determined by the hiring process. Provost Simpson concluded the discussion by expressing how important it is for tenure-track faculty to be welcomed, supported, and mentored.

#### 7. Timetable for General Education Implementation

Provost Simpson asked the deans to remind their departments that the deadlines established for Gen Ed implementation are rapidly approaching and that it is important for departments and colleges to submit their course approval requests on time. She commended Faculty Senate Committee A for its Trojan efforts in the Gen Ed implementation process. Vice Provost Sharpe noted that ODU must develop a methodology for assessing Gen Ed outcomes. The SCHEV outcomes will not satisfy SACS dictates. The methodology designed must allow for periodic review, sampling,

and ongoing monitoring. Dean de Silva expressed concern about the tight timeline, especially since faculty have only recently returned to campus. To adhere strictly to the deadlines in fall 2009 will result in advising and scheduling problems in spring 2010, argued Dean de Silva. He noted, for example, that there must be discussion about how long the “old” Gen Ed courses would remain active, among other issues for consideration. He suggested that departments be asked to submit proposals, syllabi, and learning outcomes; and that the deadlines be extended, as well. Dean de Silva would also like to see a different mechanism used for Gen Ed implementation. Instead of Committee A leading the charge, it should be the Office of Undergraduate Studies. Provost Simpson asked what repercussions would result from delaying implementation until fall 2011. Vice Provost Sharpe indicated that such a delay would wreak havoc on the SACS review process, when the focus should then be on the new Gen Ed, not the old one. Asst. VP Pickering also noted that assessment processes will be ramped up in the Commonwealth and nationally, so any pressure that ODU is feeling now regarding the Gen Ed implementation process (and assessment) will only be intensified over time, delay or no delay. Provost Simpson suggested that Dean de Silva, Faculty Senate Chair Paul Champagne, and the Provost herself should contact Committee A Chair Ken Daley and request a slight extension for the submission of course proposals.

#### 8. Media Relations Issues in the Colleges

Provost Simpson asked the deans to be mindful of any issues that may arise in their colleges and to notify the Media Relations office at the earliest possibility. She also reminded them to promote positive news from their colleges. Dean de Silva noted that in the more financially robust past, there were media staff dedicated to each college. As that circumstance is no longer the reality, Provost Simpson urged the deans to take a more proactive stance in promoting positive news.

#### 9. Reminders/Announcements

Provost Simpson asked the deans to submit 3 or 4 programs for review. She hopes to review a total of 8-10 programs during this academic year. Deans should submit programs or departments, as size/scope dictates. Vice Provost Sharpe suggested that there be a range of programs chosen for review (good ones and not-so-successful ones).

Provost Simpson announced that the new tenure review cycle had been approved and will be implemented in 2010-2011.

#### 10. Adjournment

The Council adjourned at 9:59 a.m.