

PROVOST'S COUNCIL MID-YEAR RETREAT
February 25, 2014
Minutes

The Provost's Council mid-year retreat was held on February 25 from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the President's Dining Room. The retreat was attended by the Deans, Associate Deans and Academic Affairs staff.

1. College Plans to Increase Graduate Enrollment

Each college Dean or Associate Dean presented information on graduate enrollment in their college with specific plans to increase enrollment in targeted areas. The following comments were made after the presentations.

- We should consider how to incentivize additional summer school teaching, such as through differential pay and use of alternative contracts.
- It is important for students to have a plan showing how and when a program can be completed.
- Fast processing of graduate applications is essential, especially for international students.
- There is a market in China for English for business.
- Many universities have partnerships for MBA programs; part of the course work is completed at an institution outside the U.S. with the remainder completed at the U.S. institution.

2. E-Portfolio Demonstration from Nuclear Medicine Technology

Scott Sechrist demonstrated how he has made use of e-Portfolios in the nuclear medicine technology program. Carol Simpson encouraged the colleges to find one or two faculty champions in order to begin making use of e-Portfolios in more courses and programs.

3. Teaching Disciplinary Writing

Chris Osgood and Amy Landers demonstrated how they have used key lessons from the interdisciplinary writing training to improve the college's writing intensive courses. The two courses chosen for initial improvement were BIOL 405W and PSYC 318W. The next step is to develop best practices that can be shared throughout the College of Sciences, beginning with faculty who regularly teach W courses.

4. Gil Yochum provided an update on the Entrepreneurship Center. Six faculty members have been named the initial Entsminger Fellows, and they will promote the entrepreneurship program and spread the word that it is for students across all colleges. The search for the Center Director is underway, and space for the

Center has been identified in the Visual Arts Building. The Provost's Office will be the administrative home for the Center.

Dr. Yochum noted that the program has generated enthusiasm in the business community, and other donations have followed the initial gift from the Strome family. A pitch competition will be held in April, with the winner receiving a \$3,000 award and qualifying for the Governor's competition, if one is held in May. A general education course in Entrepreneurial Studies has been developed and will be offered in the fall; it will be available to all students. In addition, an undergraduate and graduate certificate will be developed and possibly a minor. It was suggested that information about the entrepreneurship program and the Center be shared with advisors and made available to new students at Preview.

5. Wrap Up and Next Steps

Carol Simpson stressed the importance of graduate students and noted that graduate students and research will be a focus of the next strategic plan. A common theme from the discussion is the importance of marketing. Dr. Simpson asked the Deans to continue to stress the importance of marketing our graduate programs, develop clearly-defined strategies to increase graduate enrollment, concentrate on quality, and do the right thing for graduate students once they enroll. Brian Payne will follow up with the Deans as needed to implement these strategies.

Jeanie Kline stated that the summer school office is ready to help with growing enrollment. She has been working on graduate certificates with Brenda Lewis, and these may be a good marketing tool to attract graduate students.