

PROVOST'S COUNCIL  
January 22, 2008  
Minutes

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, January 22 from 8:30-9:45 a.m. in the Board Room in Koch Hall. Those present were Carol Simpson (Chair), Nancy Bagranoff, Andrew Balas, Oktay Baysal, David Branch, Andy Casiello, Chandra de Silva, Phil Langlais, Ginny O'Herron, Joe Rule, and Charles Wilson.

Carol Simpson informed the group that proposed changes to the tenure and promotion policies will be on the agenda for a future meeting. She noted that the criteria for tenure and promotion and the process are often intertwined in the policies and asked Nancy Bagranoff, Judy Bowman, and Bill Drewry to look at reordering the information in the two policies before other changes are considered. She also asked them to look at revisions to the policies to address faculty with interdisciplinary commitments, the clinical component for faculty in health sciences, and research faculty. Andrew Balas was asked to submit language to address the clinical component.

Carol Simpson led a discussion of how the Provost's Council should function and issues and topics to be considered by the group. The following suggestions were made.

- Organize the agenda to include a consent agenda, consisting of items that are not controversial, that can be approved at the end of each meeting as long as no one objects
- Include more interaction with the other Vice Presidents and members of their staff to provide information about what is going on in areas outside of Academic Affairs and to discuss policy development and decisions made in these other areas. Dr. Simpson agreed to invite the other Vice Presidents to meet with the Council. The discussions will begin with a briefing and move to a discussion of issues. The relative order of the meetings with other Vice Presidents will be Research, Administration and Finance, Institutional Advancement, and Development and Alumni Relations. Before each meeting, members of the Council will propose issues and questions for discussion.

Topics suggested for discussion at Provost's Council meetings are as follows.

- The nature of the support staff in the academic departments. Support staff positions and NPS funds have been reduced in recent budget cuts. It would be desirable to upgrade these positions and the qualifications for applicants so that more assistance can be provided to department chairs and faculty.

- Enrollment management, including data about enrollment growth, and the balance between quality and quantity. Other units outside of Academic Affairs should be included in the discussion.
- Retention. Faculty are an important part of our retention efforts. The deans expressed concern about issues related to adjunct faculty, including the large number of adjuncts in some departments, funding for adjuncts, the quality of our adjunct faculty, and the salary for adjuncts.

Another issue related to retention is the preparation of students. Resources are needed to help students succeed as well as encourage them to seek a different major in some cases. In addition, we should look at what is needed in the various majors in terms of mathematics courses and whether we are teaching the right kind of math courses.

Regarding large class sizes, the suggestion was made to investigate breaking large lecture classes into smaller cohort groups and using videostreaming or asynchronous instruction.

Tentative agendas for future Provost's Council meetings will be sent to members the week prior to the meeting. Dr. Simpson encouraged Council members to add items to the agenda as needed. The next few meetings of the Provost's Council will include a more in-depth discussion of the different vice-presidential areas. Revisions to the policies on promotion and tenure will be brought to the Provost's Council for review after the ad hoc group's work.