

April 4, 2013

TO: Provost's Council

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

SUBJ: Provost's Council Agenda for Tuesday, April 9

The Provost's Council will meet on Tuesday, April 9 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 March 26 minutes
2. MOOCS: Understanding the Opportunities and Challenges Ahead (Andy would like 30 minutes if possible)
Andy Casiello and M'Hammed Abdous
3. Faculty Senate Issue 2012/13-14, Proposed Revisions to the Policy on Academic Rank and Promotion in Rank Regarding Promotion of Research Professors
4. Faculty Senate Issue 2012/13-4, Proposed Change to the Faculty Grievance Policy
5. Proposed Revisions to the Policy on Evaluation of Academic Deans (if all deans present)
6. Annual Evaluations for Faculty Seeking Promotion to Full Professor
Chandra de Silva
7. Announcements

PROVOST'S COUNCIL

April 9, 2013

Minutes

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, April 9 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Board Room in Koch Hall. Those present were Carol Simpson (Chair), M'Hammed Abdous, Oktay Baysal, Andy Casiello, Paul Champagne, Chandra de Silva, Jim Duffy, Larry Filer, Linda Irwin-DeVitis, Brenda Lewis, David Metzger, Barry Miller, Shelley Mishoe, Ginny O'Herron, Chris Platsoucas, Marty Sharpe, and Charles Wilson. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. The March 26 minutes were approved
2. MOOCs: Understanding the Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

M'Hammed Abdous presented information on MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), including the definition of MOOCs, key players, pedagogical models, common instructional issues and other issues, academic credit, revenue models, and next steps. Most MOOCs are online, web-based courses with a traditional start and end date. These courses are open to an unlimited number of students through a computer and Internet connection. A central purpose is to expand free access to top-class education to anyone, anywhere, and anytime.

Issues for discussion before the University decides whether or not to offer MOOCs include the following:

- Do we have faculty interested in developing MOOCs?
- Do we have funds to support MOOC development?
- What types of partnerships should we pursue: for-profit or non-profit?
- What type of licensing arrangements should we establish?
- How are they aligned with our own intellectual property policies?
- What is our current institutional capacity to develop MOOCs?
- Where do MOOCs fit into our own distance learning strategy?
- What would be the impact of MOOCs on our current distance learning efforts?

Discussion on MOOCs will continue at a Faculty Forum on Friday, April 12.

3. Student Government Association Proposal to the Faculty Senate Asking for Additional Reading Days

Carol Simpson presented a proposal from the Student Government Association (SGA) regarding reading days. SGA has asked the Faculty Senate to consider changing the academic calendar so that there are reading days in the fall semester and additional reading days in the spring semester to give students adequate time to prepare for final exams. Council members expressed support for trying to

accommodate the SGA's request; Paul Champagne stated that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee is also supportive. Dr. Simpson asked Chandra de Silva and Judy Bowman to look at adjustments to the academic calendar that could be made to incorporate additional reading days.

4. Faculty Senate Issue 2012/13-14, Proposed Revisions to the Policy on Academic Rank and Promotion in Rank Regarding Promotion of Research Professors

Council members discussed the recommendation from the Faculty Senate for revisions to the policy on Academic Rank and Promotion in Rank regarding promotion of research professors. The promotion of research associate and assistant professors is not addressed in the current policy. The recommended process for promotion mirrors the tenure and promotion processes, which include the department, department chair, college promotion and tenure committee, dean, University promotion and tenure committee, and provost as well as external reviews.

Council members felt that additional revisions are needed to the section that was added for research faculty who only have appointments in one of the University-level research centers. Carol Simpson will work with Chandra de Silva and John Sokolowski to revise the section. The revisions will be discussed at a future Provost's Council meeting.

5. Faculty Senate Issue 2012/13-4, Proposed Change to the Faculty Grievance Policy

Ginny O'Herron provided the background on the Faculty Senate recommendation regarding a change to the Faculty Grievance Policy. The issue arose because of a conflict between the Faculty Grievance Policy and the Guidelines for Appointment and Promotion of Librarians. The Faculty Grievance Policy states that it applies to faculty and professional librarians. However, the Guidelines for Appointment and Promotion of Librarians refer librarians to the Grievance Policy for Faculty Administrators.

Rather than revise the Faculty Grievance Policy to remove professional librarians, the Faculty Senate felt the Guidelines should be amended so that librarians are referred to the faculty policy. The University Libraries Promotion Committee agreed. They felt that librarians are faculty in their instructional, research and service roles, have a well-established promotion system that parallels the faculty system for promotion, and have a seat on Faculty Senate and eligibility to be appointed to Faculty Senate committees.

Council members agreed that the Guidelines for Appointment and Promotion of Librarians should be revised to refer librarians to the Faculty Grievance Policy instead of the Faculty Administrator Grievance Policy. The Council's recommendation will be forwarded to President Broderick.

6. Annual Evaluations for Faculty Seeking Promotion to Full Professor

Chandra de Silva discussed whether a policy revision is needed regarding annual evaluations for faculty seeking promotion to full professor. Currently the policy on Evaluation of Faculty calls for the annual evaluation of all faculty. However, the practice in at least some of the colleges has been not to conduct the annual evaluation in the year a faculty member is evaluated for promotion to full professor.

The policy on Evaluation of Faculty was revised recently to state that a reappointment/nonreappointment letter is not required in the year a candidate is evaluated for tenure. However, the issue of an annual evaluation in the year a faculty member is evaluated for promotion was not considered. Judy Bowman will check on the status of the revision regarding evaluations for tenure candidates. She and Chandra de Silva will propose an additional revision to deal with evaluations for candidates for promotion and send the revision to Paul Champagne.

7. FY14 Spendable Income Drawdown

Carol Simpson reminded the deans that they have received FY14 spendable income from the Development Office. The Development Office has expressed concern that the funds drawn down by the colleges are not always spent in a timely way and requests that the deans provide a spending plan for the funds with the draw down request.

8. Announcements

- A. Graduate Achievement Day is April 11.
- B. The opening of the Confucius Institute will be April 19.