

September 22, 2017

TO: Provost's Council

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

SUBJ: Provost's Council Agenda for Tuesday, September 26, 2017

The Provost's Council will meet on Tuesday, September 26 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 May 23, 2017 minutes (see attachment, p. 1-2)
2. Proposal for Go-Virginia Initiative
Morris Foster
3. Proposed M.S. Degree in Cybersecurity (see separate attachment)
Jeanie Kline, Hongyi Wu and Robert Wojtowicz
4. Proposed Changes to the Policy on Posthumous Degree or Certificate of Recognition or Achievement for Terminally Ill and Deceased Students (see attachment, p. 3-4)
5. Student Opinion Surveys – 9:15 a.m.
Rusty Waterfield

PROVOST'S COUNCIL
September 26, 2017
Minutes

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 from 8:30-9:45 a.m. in the Koch Hall Board Room. Those present were Austin Agho (Chair), Richardean Benjamin, Jim Shaeffer, Andy Casiello, Stephanie Adams, Jane Bray, George Fowler, Gail Dodge, Wie Yusuf, Renee Olander, Robert Wojtowicz, David Cook, Kent Sandstrom, David Burdige, Morris Foster, Hongyi Wu, and Rusty Waterfield. The following agenda items were addressed.

1. The May 23, 2017 minutes were approved.
2. Go-Virginia and VRIF initiatives

Morris Foster presented information related to the Virginia Research Investment Fund and the Go-Virginia initiative. He pointed out that these funding and research opportunities tend to be moving targets, but he presented what he is aware of currently. VRIF appears to be research focused, but with no representation from any of the research universities. The group is looking for commercial pipelines when funding projects, and cybersecurity may be one of those pipelines.

The Go-Virginia initiative carries two pots of funding for Region 5 (where ODU is located). There are no guidelines out yet, and there is some confusion related to funding models.

Generally, cybersecurity, water technology, drone technology, and opportunities for job creation/commercialization are the focal points for the bulk of the funding available. Dr. Foster hopes to have additional information in the coming weeks.

3. Proposal for M.S. in Cybersecurity

Hongyi Wu, Jeanie Kline and Robert Wojtowicz presented information about the proposed M.S. in Cybersecurity. Questions arose about duplication, particularly with Norfolk State. Dr. Wu pointed out that NSU's program is based in their computer science department whereas the ODU program is interdisciplinary in format. Other questions addressed the existing certificates in cybersecurity and how they may align with the proposed program.

Additional discussions focused on faculty being split between the Graduate School and their home departments, faculty evaluations, assistantships, and other resources for the program (including how such funding for the program may impact funding in other programs).

Dr. Wojtowicz pointed out that Brian Payne was able to make “cluster” hires for cybersecurity—funding faculty for their home departments and for the program. The group agreed that an executive committee to oversee the program would be vital. There was support for moving the program forward, both internally and with SCHEV. A vote will be taken after feedback is available from the Faculty Senate and SCHEV.

4. Changes to the Administration of the Student Opinion Survey Process

Rusty Waterfield provided handouts to the Council that addressed two items:

- a. Suggestions for ensuring courses offered outside the 15-week fall and spring semesters have appropriate timelines for student input. He noted that he understands faculty/administration at ODU wish to give students the opportunity to provide feedback on courses/faculty prior to the scheduled exams; currently, there are no guidelines for winter term, summer courses, and other periods when the exam may fall on the last day of class. The current policy (University Policy on the Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness, Part II, B, 3, c.) states that the student opinion surveys will be administered within the last nine days of classes when a term is scheduled for fewer than 15 weeks.

Rusty proposed the following changes to this policy:

- No change for full-term fall and spring semester classes
 - No change for second part-of-term (8-week) classes of a fall or spring semester
 - First part-of-term (8 weeks) of a semester—survey available week 6 and 7
 - Winter and Maymester—start at 60% of course completion, and end at 80% of course completion
 - Summer Sessions 1 and 2 (6-week sessions)—survey available week 4 and 5
 - Summer Session 3 (12-week session)—survey available weeks 10 and 11, unless the course length falls below 12 weeks
 - Summer Session 4 (variable lengths, up to 14 weeks)—survey starts 21 days prior to the last day, and closes 7 days prior to the end of the session
- b. Requests for summer courses to have an “opt-out” practice, which differs from the current “opt-in” practice. Generally, summer courses are not included in the automatic survey procedure that occurs in fall and spring semesters, and Mr. Waterfield offered to change this so that faculty were given an opportunity to opt out of the survey process.

The current policy states that faculty request student opinion surveys in summer; thus, this would be a change from the current policy.

Each change will require approval by both the Provost's Council and the Faculty Senate for implementation.

The Provost's Council (or Deans Council) will vote on the changes in policy at a future meeting. The changes will then go to the Faculty Senate for consideration.

5. Proposed Changes to the Policy on Posthumous Degree or Certificate of Recognition or Achievement for Terminally Ill and Deceased Students.

The current policy required clarification regarding the process for these actions, and the proposal under consideration has provided this clarification. The item that will also be considered relates to exceptions that are currently approved by the President. The recommendation has been made that this approval be made by the Provost. After a brief discussion, the Provost's Council approved the proposal unanimously. The proposed changes will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate.