

## PROVOST'S COUNCIL

June 25, 2019

### Minutes

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the SGA Chambers in Webb Center. Those present were Austin Agho (Chair), Jane Bray, Caitlin Chandler, Paul Currant, Gail Dodge, George Fowler, Dennis Gregory, Kate Hawkins, Heather Huling, Connie Merriman, David Metzger, Renee Olander, Brian Payne, Elaine Pearson, Kent Sandstrom, Karen Sanzo, John Sokolowski, Narketta Sparkman-Key, Ben Stuart, Bonnie Van Lunen, and Robert Wojtowicz. Attending as guests were Emily Harmon, Passion Studivant, and Faith Williams. The following agenda items were discussed.

#### 1. TRiO Student Support Services: Impacting the Success of Underrepresented Students Since 1981

Passion Studivant, Director of Student Support Services, presented information on the TRiO Student Support Services Program (SSS). The program assists low-income individuals and first-generation college students. Through grant competition, funds are awarded to institutions of higher education to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. The goal of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants. Required program services include the following.

- Academic tutoring
- Advice and assistance in course selection
- Assist students with information on financial aid, benefits and resources for locating scholarships, and assistance in completing the FAFSA
- Education or counseling services designed to improve financial and economic literacy
- Assist students in applying for admission to graduate and professional programs
- The SSS projects may also provide individualized counseling for personal, career, and academic information, activities, and instruction designed to acquaint students with career options; exposure to cultural events and academic programs not usually available, and mentoring programs

The program served 216 students in 2018-19, with 61 students on a waiting list for services. For the 2017-18 participants, 93% were in good academic standing, the persistence rate was 92%, and the six-year graduation rate was 65%.

2. Report on Activities from Karen Sanzo, Provost's Fellow for Design Thinking and Strategic Planning

Karen Sanzo presented an overview of her work as Provost's Fellow for Design Thinking and Strategic Planning. Activities for 2018-19 included the following.

- Cybersecurity Workshop with PK-12 teachers with cybersecurity
- Cybersecurity grant development and collaboration
- Library space redesign support
- College, program, and department outreach and support
- Graduate Recruitment Workshops through the Graduate School
- Social Mobility Workshops
- Design Thinking Workshops for PK-12 participants
- DFWI committee involvement
- Strategic planning
  - University team for University-level strategic plan
  - Arts & Letters
  - Entrepreneurial Council

Continuing initiatives and plans for 2019-20 are as follows.

- Design Fellows
- Additional E possibilities
- Design Virginia grant with high schools and divisions
- Fall 2019 workshops with PK-12 educators and higher education leaders

Dr. Sanzo expressed her willingness to meet with faculty, staff and administrators in the colleges on design thinking and strategic planning issues.

3. Report on Activities from Dennis Gregory, Provost's Fellow for the First Amendment

Dennis Gregory reported on his work as Provost's Fellow for the First Amendment. Activities for 2018-19 included the following.

- Presentations at Provost's Planning Retreat, Faculty Governance Organization of the Darden College of Education and Professional Studies, full-time faculty meeting for the Darden College of Education and Professional Studies, and the Dean's Leadership Team for the College of Engineering and Technology
- Consultations with faculty
- Meeting with NASPA NUFP students on First Amendment issues
- Surveyed faculty on First Amendment issues

- Produced a video and resource links to be used as a website for training for continuing faculty
- Worked with Dale Miller to plan for a speaker for Constitution Day in the fall
- Will work with George Fowler to revise the policy for displaying works, particularly art, in the Libraries (summer 2019)

Plans for the 2019-20 academic year are as follows.

- Deploy website for training for continuing faculty
- Provide training events for new faculty and GTAs during fall orientation for these groups
- Engage in an Open Forum for faculty with University legal counsel to discuss any faculty concerns about First Amendment issues and answer questions
- Meet with the Deans of each college and their faculty if desired
- Provide a Constitution Day speaker on First Amendment issues in September
- Attend the University of Vermont Legal Issues Conference in October
- Provide monthly “Brown Bag” lunch meetings with faculty to discuss various First Amendment issues

Dr. Gregory expressed his willingness to come to the colleges to discuss First Amendment issues.

#### 4. Announcements

- A. A proposal has been made to the Provost to change the name of the Office of International Programs to the Center for Global Engagement. Paul Carrant stated that the proposed name would be more inclusive and better represent the activities of the Office. He noted that industry bodies are talking about global engagement, not internationalization.
- B. Robert Wojtowicz informed Council members that the M.S in data science and analytics is pending at SCHEV with a possible implementation date of January 2020. He noted three certificate proposals related to data science have been proposed and other certificates have been approved. He will meet with the associate deans to sort through existing and proposed certificates and discuss how to integrate them with the new degree program.