

## PROVOST'S COUNCIL

August 27, 2019

### Minutes

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the SGA Chambers in Webb Center. Those present were Austin Agho (Chair), Jane Bray, Andy Casiello, Paul Currant, Gail Dodge, Renee Felts, Annette Finley-Croswhite, George Fowler, Giovanna Genard, Kate Hawkins, David Metzger, Renee Olander, Tisha Paredes, Brian Payne, Elaine Pearson, Kent Sandstrom, John Sokolowski, Narketta Sparkman-Key, Ben Stuart, Jeff Tanner, Bonnie Van Lunen, and Robert Wojtowicz. Attending as guests were John Costanzo, Robert Doherty and Bryan Porter. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. The July 23, 2019 minutes were approved.

2. Credentialing Center Proposal

Brian Payne, Renee Felts, and Robert Doherty discussed a proposal to expand, optimize and realign testing at the University. The proposal would reorganize the current University Testing Center and College of Sciences Testing Center into the ODU Student Testing Center and the University Credentialing Center.

The Credentialing Center would house credit-bearing and industry certification exams. The intent of establishing the Center is to supplement and add value to the academic programs offered by the Colleges to better prepare students for the world of work. The Center would provide opportunities for ODU students to enhance their skills and post-graduation employment/earnings potential.

Dr. Felts and Mr. Doherty will meet with the Deans to gather information on credentialing opportunities in their colleges. They will also consult with department chairs, Career Development Services, and other units as needed. Renee Olander noted that the regional higher education centers are also available for testing.

3. Highlights from the Recent Student Survey Regarding the Regional Higher Education Centers

John Costanzo and Tisha Paredes presented highlights from the recent student survey regarding the regional higher education centers. The survey replicates the survey conducted in spring 2016. Responses in both surveys indicate that the top three reasons both undergraduate and graduate students visit the higher education centers are as following.

- Scheduled class with an in-person instructor
- Scheduled class with a web-connected instructor

- Study space

Students expressed satisfaction with their experience at a high education center because of the location, the facilities and the staff. Students' recommendations to improve the higher education center experience are as follows.

- More class offerings, both in-person classes and more classes in the evening
- More student support resources, including faculty office hours, tutoring, and other support services

Dr. Paredes noted a shift in students' preference for online and in-person courses at the higher education centers in the 2019 survey. She also reported that military-affiliated students need a face-to-face class in order to receive their full VA benefits.

Ongoing discussion is needed in the following areas.

- How are our course offerings meeting students' needs?
- In what ways can colleges make use of the higher education centers?
- What other opportunities are available at the higher education centers?

Austin Agho added that the University is not doing enough to maximize the higher education centers.

#### 4. SREB Scholars Event in October

Narketta Sparkman-Key and Bryan Porter presented information on the Institute for Teaching and Mentoring Recruitment on October 24-27 in Atlanta sponsored by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). The Institute provides an opportunity for student and faculty recruitment. Seven faculty recruiters plus two organizers attended last year's Institute; however, two colleges were not represented. Dr. Sparkman-Key asked the Deans to identify at least one recruiter from their college and to commit to the cost of attendance (approximately \$1,500 per recruiter) by September 3.

Dr. Sparkman-Key explained the Excite the Dream diverse scholar recruitment program, which involves identifying scholars from an underrepresented population at the SREB Institute and paying their travel to ODU. While on campus, scholars would cultivate skills in teaching, research, grant writing and technology from ODU professors, tour the ODU campus and learn about scholarship expectations, and present their research agenda to Deans, chairs and search committee members.