The Deans Council met on Tuesday, September 15 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Those present were Austin Agho (Chair), Tammi Dice, Gail Dodge, Stuart Frazer, Kate Hawkins, David Metzger, Brian Payne, Kent Sandstrom, Ben Stuart, Jeff Tanner, Bonnie Van Lunen, and Robert Wojtowicz. Narketta Sparkman-Key attended as a guest. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. The August 11, 2020 minutes were approved.

2. Continue Discussion of Faculty Senate Issue AY17-08-G, Faculty Teaching Load from the May 2020 meeting

Council members continued the discussion of the Faculty Senate recommendation for changes to the Faculty Teaching Load policy. The Deans reiterated the concerns expressed at the May meeting about the need for a fuller discussion between teaching load versus workload. They also felt that defining the standard teach load as 24 load hours was limiting when calculating a faculty member’s total workload and that the specific number of load hours should be removed from the policy.

Council members recommended that the current policy remain in place for now and the proposed changes be returned to the Faculty Senate for additional discussion. Kate Hawkins noted that department chairs need to be involved in the discussion about changes to the Faculty Teaching Load policy.

3. Proposed Revisions to Undergraduate and Graduate Continuance Policies

Robert Wojtowicz and Judy Bowman discussed proposed changes to the undergraduate and graduate continuance policies, which would define academic eligibility for extracurricular activities as it pertains to students on academic warning, probation, or suspension. The issue came up because of an NCAA rule that student athletes are eligible to participate when in ‘good standing’ with GPAs of 1.8 and above. The problem at ODU is that students are in ‘good standing’ at 2.0 and above for undergraduates and 3.0 and above for graduate students. As a result of an audit of the Registrar’s Office, undergraduate students in the 1.8-1.99 range are now being deemed ineligible because the ODU ‘good standing’ is 2.0; a similar situation exists for graduate students below a 3.0. Although the issue arose because of the NCAA issue, the changes would apply to all extracurricular activities. SEES was consulted and confirmed that they do not have a policy restricting participation in extracurricular activities to students at 2.0 or above (or 3.0 for graduate students).

Council members approved the changes to the undergraduate and graduate continuance policies related to extracurricular activities. The changes will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for information.
4. Update on Discussions with EVMS

Austin Agho informed the group that consultants have been working with us on a study to look at what a partnership with EVMS would look like and determine where strengths overlap. The consultants have interviewed several people on campus. The consultants’ report is due in November and will be shared with the Council.

5. Update on COVID-19 Compliance Protocols

Kate Hawkins will seek information on compliance protocols to report on at an upcoming meeting. The COVID-19 dashboard is available and will be updated every Monday. Bonnie Van Lunen noted that the University plans to increase testing as more equipment becomes available and hopes to include testing for faculty and staff.

6. Diversity of Ph.D. Graduates by Field

Narketta Sparkman-Key presented data that shows doctoral recipients by subfield of study as well as race and gender. The information can be used to identify opportunities to target minority candidates to recruit in order to increase the diversity of our faculty. She will send the link to the data.