

PROVOST'S COUNCIL
March 23, 2021
Minutes

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, from 8:30-10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Those present were Austin Agho (Chair), Andy Casiello, Paul Currant, Tammi Dice, Gail Dodge, Annette Finley-Croswhite, Renee Felts, Stuart Frazer, Giovanna Genard, Nina Gonser, Kate Hawkins, Jonathan Leib, David Metzger, Renee Olander, Tisha Paredes, Brian Payne, John Sokolowski, Narketta Sparkman-Key, Ben Stuart, Jeff Tanner, Bonnie Van Lunen, and Robert Wojtowicz. Attending as guests were Kevin Leslie, Daniela Cigularova, and David Shirley.

1. The February 23, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.
2. Hampton Roads Biomedical Research Consortium

Dr. Kevin Leslie, Executive Director of the Hampton Roads Biomedical Research Consortium (HRBRC), provided an overview of this new entity, a partnership between ODU, EVMS, and Sentara Healthcare.

The HRBRC has three organizational members: ODU, EVMS, and Sentara, and has state funding of \$10M in one-time capital funding and \$4M in annual operating funds. The Board of Directors is comprised of executives leading the three member groups and Monique Adams from 757 Angels, a network of business and community leaders in Hampton Roads who provide investment capital, strategic advice, and mentoring to startup companies to foster success, and a community seat representative to be named in the future. The HRBRC headquarters is located at the ODU Tri-Cities Center, with office, conference, and lab space anticipated to be completed in December 2021. Dr. Leslie reported an enthusiastic response to the group's launch and wide support for the opportunities in the biomedical research area, with some challenges noted in persevering across regional organizations and economic development entities where collaborative efforts have faced challenges in the past.

HRBRC is focused on addressing regional health disparities, fostering biohealth innovation and commercialization, and increasing the region's biomedical research profile through direct funding of research projects, forging new partnerships, making capital investments, and centralizing/streamlining the process for projects at all stages. Engagement is planned through events, seminars, entrepreneurial education, and community outreach. Operating and capital budgets have been approved, a renovation contract has been executed, a 501c3 has been established, and hiring is underway.

3. Transfer Dashboard, Transfer Needs and Training

David Shirley presented an overview of the ODU Transfer Student Portal, providing many types of important demographic and statistical information about transfer students coming to ODU, such as those transferring with an AA or not, years of continued enrollment, GPA, etc., as well as age, race and ethnicity. Future planned iterations will include data on Pell grant recipients, first gen status, international students, and data from non-VCCS transfer institutions. Daniela Cigularova spoke on the importance of learning more about the unique challenges of transfer students, such as the fact that 80% of new community college students aspire to earn a bachelor's degree, but six years later, only 14% have achieved that goal. The pipeline from TCC to ODU is well-established, with TNCC and NOVA also providing a respectable number of our in-state community college transfer students. Success with transfer students is bolstered through making

intentional efforts that prioritize transfer students, providing clear programmatic pathways, and providing tailored transfer student advising. ODU has created a Call-to-Action Team to ensure transfer students are provided with dedicated support to remove impediments and improve success, including a transfer student portal on the website.

4. Announcements

Kate Hawkins reported highlights on the “back to campus” plan. Brief discussion followed. A concern was expressed about classroom space being reallocated by the Registrar’s Office, so that professors who might want to transition back to offering classes via in-person format are not finding appropriate classrooms available to do so. Others indicated hearing some reluctance by faculty to offer in-person courses. Provost Agho requested information be provided by the Registrar’s Office about courses being offered on online versus in-person. He stated student success data indicated that the students most adversely affected by the transition to online instruction during the pandemic were those enrolled in 100-level courses. He asked the deans to meet with chairs to encourage that 100-level courses be offered in-person wherever possible.