

DEANS COUNCIL

March 14, 2023

Minutes

The Deans Council met on Tuesday, March 14 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Board Room in Koch Hall. Those present were Austin Agho (Chair), Laura Delbrugge, Tammi Dice, Gail Dodge, Ken Fridley, Tim Hackman, Kate Hawkins, Ken Kahn, Bonnie Van Lunen, Robert Wojtowicz and Suzanne Wright. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. The February 14, 2023, minutes were approved.
2. Review Board of Visitors policy 1408 – Posthumous Degree or Certificate of Recognition or Achievement for Terminally Ill and Deceased Students

Deans Council members reviewed the Board of Visitors policy on Posthumous Degree or Certificate of Recognition or Achievement for Terminally Ill and Deceased Students, which was due for its five-year review. No changes were recommended. The Faculty Senate and the Board of Visitors will be notified that no changes are needed to the policy on Posthumous Degree or Certificate of Recognition or Achievement for Terminally Ill and Deceased Students.

3. Closed Online Courses Report for Summer 2023

Austin Agho reminded the Deans to pay attention to the closed online courses report for summer 2023 and the report for fall 2023 when it is available. The Deans were also asked to continue to work on increasing enrollment, particularly in those programs identified to increase enrollment. Christopher Fleming is working on a report to showing the trend of closed classes.

4. Draft Policy for Postdoctoral Fellows

Robert Wojtowicz presented a draft policy for postdoctoral fellows. The Deans asked about postdocs paid on Ledger 1 vs. those paid by ODURF and made several additional comments. Dr. Wojtowicz will incorporate the comments and send a draft of the policy to ODURF for feedback. The policy will be discussed again at an upcoming Deans Council meeting.

5. Leave Payouts and Bridge Contracts for Department Chairs – feedback from department chairs

The Deans reported on the feedback from department chairs about leave payouts and bridge contracts.

- Arts & Letters – The chairs agreed with 12-month appointments and no leave payout after two years.
- Business – All department chairs are on 10-month appointments with a stipend. Twelve-month appointments are preferred, but the funding is not available.
- Education and Professional Studies – The chairs agreed with the guidelines developed by the Deans.
- Engineering and Technology – All department chairs are on 11-month appointments. The goal is to move to 10-month appointments with a special contract for summer.
- Health Sciences – New chairs will be on 12-month appointments; 10-, 11-, or 12-month appointments could be used in the future.
- Sciences – The chairs generally agreed with the guidelines developed by the Deans. Future appointments could be for 10, 11, or 12 months.

6. Graduate Health Insurance

Robert Wojtowicz discussed several concerns related to graduate student health insurance. United Health Care will not raise premiums. However, the University funded the 25% increase in the premiums last year, and it is unclear whether the University will cover this cost for the upcoming year. Health insurance is voluntary for ODU graduate students, but EVMS requires health insurance for their students. We will not be able to have two different policies. Austin Agho stated it is time that we begin discussions about how to handle graduate health insurance.

7. Announcements

- A. Austin Agho asked for the names of three-four faculty from each college to participate in the upcoming Budget Summit. Staff may be nominated and the Deans may nominate themselves.
- B. There is no feedback yet on budget requests. Special fee requests will be considered after tuition and fees are confirmed. There will be an open forum on tuition.
- C. Austin Agho reminded the Deans to send agenda items for the Academic Affairs Leadership Team, Deans Council, and the President's Leadership Team.