

## PROVOST'S COUNCIL

March 28, 2023

### Minutes

The Provost's Council met on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, in the Graduate School Multipurpose Room, 2100 Monarch Hall. Those present were Austin Agho (Chair), Michael Carhart, Li-Wu Chen, Paul Currant, Laura Delbrugge, Tammi Dice, Gail Dodge, Renee Felts, Annette Finley-Croswhite, Ken Fridley, Tim Hackman, Kate Hawkins, Ken Kahn, David Metzger, Brian Payne, Robert Wojtowicz, Suzanne Wright, and Tish Szymurski. Kara Boone, Jenn Grimm, Tyler Miller-Gordon, David Shirley, Ashley Schumaker, Karen Meier, and Christina LiPuma attended as guests. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. The November 22, 2022, minutes were approved.
2. Monarch Pantry

Jenn Grimm and Kara Boone presented information on campus food insecurity and the Monarch Pantry, which is located in Webb Center. The Pantry is open two days a week, and all items are donated and free for students. The Pantry opened in fall 2020, and student usage has increased exponentially since that time. Ms. Boone and Ms. Grimm emphasized the need for additional donations and sponsorships.

3. Returning Students and Time to Completion

Tyler Miller-Gordon presented the results of two studies conducted by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment. The first study included data on new first timers who entered in the fall term of 2013, 2014, 2015, or 2016 and their rates of return for fall to spring and fall to fall. On average, 92% of new first timers are retained to the following spring, whereas only 78% are retained to the following fall. When a student is part-time, a Pell grant recipient, first-generation, or out-of-state, they are statistically less likely to return the following fall. When a student is female, African American, or Asian, they are statistically more likely to return the following fall.

The second study was an analysis of years to completion by student demographics and academic affiliation. Data presented included new first timers who entered in fall or spring of 2013, 2014, 2015, or 2016 and were classified as freshmen. Students who completed double majors were excluded from the analysis. On average, ODU first-time freshmen completed their degree in 4.28 years. Departments and majors above the University average number of years to completion of a four-year degree where at least five students graduated were listed in the report.

#### 4. Spring Commencement Ceremonies

Ashley Schumaker, Karen Meier and Christina LiPuma presented changes planned for the May Commencement ceremonies. The Advanced Degree Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. in Chartway Arena; the expected participation is 500-600. Operationally there are no changes for the Advanced Degree Ceremony.

The Undergraduate Degree Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 6 at S.B. Ballard Stadium at 9:00 a.m. and will include bachelor's degree candidates from all colleges and schools; the expected participation is 2,000. The inclement weather plan is for three ceremonies at Chartway Arena.

Ten marshals and two readers are needed for the Advanced Degree Ceremony, and 12 marshals are needed for the Undergraduate Degree Ceremony. The Vice Presidents are providing additional marshals to support student line-up and seating. Professional readers will be used at the undergraduate ceremony.

All members of the platform party will receive detailed information prior to the graduation ceremonies. Training will be held for the marshals and readers. There will also be a rehearsal for platform party members and marshals the week of May 1.

Ms. Schumaker, Ms. Meier and Ms. Lipuma stressed the need for faculty participation in the academic procession at both graduation ceremonies.