The Provost’s Council met on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in Monarch Hall 2100. Those present were Austin Agho (Chair), Luanne Bowman, Michael Carhart, Paul Currant, Laura Delbrugge, Gail Dodge, Annette Finley-Croswhite, Ken Fridley, Tim Hackman, Ken Kahn, Petros Katsioloudis, Yvette Pearson, Tish Szymurski, Bonnie Van Lunen, Robert Wojtowicz and Suzanne Wright. Corrin Gillis attended as a guest. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. The July 25 minutes were approved.

2. Strategic Plan of I-HEAR

Corrin Gillis, Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, met with Council members to discuss the Strategic Plan of I-HEAR. She provided an overview of this university led initiative, explained I-HEAR’s vision which is “Transforming interprofessional healthcare practice, education, and research in the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond,” discussed their mission and what their goals were and how they could achieve them. Dr. Gillis outlined the following goals:

- Increase awareness and visibility of I-hear within the university and community.
- Increase the engagement of health professions students in community-based health services.
- Seek out additional opportunities for interprofessional education and clinical collaboration.
- Seek out additional opportunities for interprofessional education and clinical collaboration.

Dr. Gillis presented an outline of each individual goal, the strategies to achieve each goal, and what the key performance indicators are to measure performance and progress. She further explained I-HEAR’s next steps and the importance of receiving support from ODU’s academic and clinical programs. Dr. Gillis discussed the need to sustain I-HEAR through grants, donors and other avenues of support and the need for personnel to conduct the work of the center.

3. Debrief from Academic Affairs Leadership Team and Follett Presentation

This system of offering books to students using their financial aid has been discussed for the past several years. Currently a student can use their financial aid now to purchase books if they need to, but Follett would like to expand that. Some of the questions were:
Can the student choose which delivery system they wanted whether it be hardback, paper, or digital?
What about classes that do not use traditional books but use different interactive digital platforms? Can that be supported?
Are there peer institutions that currently use Follett? Could we discuss with those peers the pros and cons? What was implementation like and were there any pitfalls these institutions encountered? How did they overcome and problems that arose.
How will Follett serve the university? The concept is good, but it may be inconvenient to the students and faculty. There could also be privacy issues.

It was discussed that a forum should be done with faculty to get their views on this concept from Follett and see what questions arise.