

College Council Meeting Minutes February 15, 2018

The meeting of the College Council was called to order at 11:20 a.m.; President Roush presided. The minutes of the October 26, 2017, College Council meeting were approved as distributed.

President's Report

President Roush reported on highlights from the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees. In addition to usual business, the Board received reports on the campaign and the campus master plan. A Board working group continues to discuss issues related to diversity on the Board and among our faculty and staff, and the Nominations Committee is discussing ways to evaluate the effectiveness of Board members. Also announced at the Board meeting was a gift from David and Marlene Grissom to establish four new endowed faculty chairs.

Deans' Reports

Dean Hays noted that the selection process has started for RAs and OLs for next year, and nearly 250 students attended a workshop for Greek students. He acknowledged the "busyness" of spring term, encouraging students not to "over program" and everyone to consult the College calendar before scheduling events. Finally, he referenced a campus-wide message from Rodmon King and him emphasizing that Centre is no place for hate.

Dean Nesmith reported that our new student goal of 405 first-years and 5 transfers for this fall should result in a total enrollment of 1465-70. Next year's comprehensive fee has been raised by \$1500 to \$52,180. We will increase our financial aid budget proportionally and even a bit more in order to achieve our enrollment goals. Applications are up slightly over last year (1%) with significant increases in students of color (11%) and international students (14%). Test scores are stronger and the major scholarship pools are up significantly (50%). Finally, Dean Nesmith reminded us that we have a number of DACA students on campus and we need to be sensitive to the uncertainties they and their families are facing. On behalf of the faculty, Lori Hartmann expressed gratitude for the substantial and noticeable increase in diversity among our students, noting that it has added tremendous value to our classes.

Dean Fabritius' report included the following highlights:

- Members of the Committee on Curricular Mission and Goals have submitted a draft report recommending general education learning goals grouped on six themes. A final draft is scheduled to go before the faculty in March with the expectation that an implementation committee will be elected in April.
- Various academic offices have begun to discuss ways that we might better document all of the curricular and co-curricular experiences of our students.
- The Brown Fellows mentor for 2018-2022 is Robyn Cutright and the Posse13 mentor is Jami Powell.

Dean Fabritius said that she plans to raise two topics for discussion at the next Council meeting:

1. Issues related to CentreTerm, including a) problems related to illness and absences, b) the perceived unevenness of course rigor, c) behavioral issues, and d) governance issues (committee work comes to a standstill).
2. A recommendation that we add 10 minutes to the common hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She read portions to two memos supporting the recommendation, and a few pros and cons were mentioned by those present. A fuller discussion will occur at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

Rodmon King reported that the Committee on Diversity and Community is working on coordinating programming. Student assessment results from the diversity climate survey should be available this spring. The faculty/staff diversity climate survey will be conducted over two weeks in March. This is earlier than planned but by doing it now we will be able to benchmark the results against similar data at other ACS institutions. This will delay until next spring another administration of the "Best Colleges to Work for" survey. Rodmon also noted recent programming sponsored by our DACA students; they have another event planned for March 10th.

Finally, he noted that are several programs/events scheduled for Black History Month this month and Women's History Month next month.

For the Honors and Prizes committee, Dina Badie noted that we did not have any applicants for several of the premier scholarships available to out graduates (Rhodes, Marshall, etc.). We do have 8 Fulbright semifinalists. The committee is restructuring the division of its work. Robert Schalkoff will coordinate the process for many of the national prizes and scholarships and the committee is looking new mentors for several other awards.

For the Human Resources Committee, Jim Morrison noted that 35% of Centre employees chose the new high deductible health insurance plan. This will decrease the amount of premium dollars coming in but that should be balanced by fewer claims. The committee is currently reviewing options for engaging providers of treatment for chronic health concerns.

For the Planning and Priorities Committee, Patrick Noltemeyer noted that two forums have been scheduled to present recommendations coming from the group working on a Campus Master Plan.

For the Undergraduate Research Committee, Lenny Demoranville and Ellen Prusinski reported that the committee has planned a week of activities to compliment the RICE symposium.

New Business

Based on a recommendation from the Undergraduate Research Committee, the Council approved a motion to amend the committee's charge to read:

The Committee on Undergraduate Research will investigate practices and recommend policies pertaining to faculty-mentored student scholarship. The committee will also provide opportunities and resources that support the ability of faculty mentors to effectively mentor student scholarship, as well as organize an annual symposium to showcase student research, internships, and creative endeavors.

Announcements

Shana Schepman announced that Staff Spring Madness is scheduled for March 20 and the next full Staff Congress meeting is scheduled for April 20.

Patrick Noltemeyer announced some events planned by the Bicentennial Committee. President Roush asked that we received a fuller report from the Bicentennial Committee at the next Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Tim Culhan, Secretary

Present:

Tom Allen	Elizabeth Graves	Gina Nicoletti-Bellinger
Maria Apostolova-Mihaylova	Lori Hartmann	Megan Noltemeyer
Dina Badie	Randy Hays	Patrick Noltemeyer
Leonard Demoranville	Rodmon King	Kelly O'Quin
Anne Evans	Kirk Knott	Ellen Prusinski
Stephanie Fabritius	Jennapher Lunde-Seefeldt	Shana Schepman
Amanda Falk	Patten Mahler	Stephen Swan
Satty Flaherty-Echeverria	Dan Manheim	Ann Young
Mark Galatowitsch	Yvonne Morley	
Jamey Gay	Jim Morrison	
Karin Gill	Bob Nesmith	