

Council of Chairs and Program Directors

Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2020

Present: Oana Armeanu, Christy Baker, Michael Broshears, Andy Buck, Jeri Burger, Amy Chan Hilton, Manfen Chen, Tori Colson, Charles Conway, Belle Cowden, Cindy Deloney-Marino, Wes Durham, William Elliot, Abbas Foroughi, Renee Frimming, Erin Gilles, Jason Hardgrave, Rick Hudson, Tamara Hunt, Jessica Garces Jensen, Paul Kuban, Kenneth Purcell, Shawn Robey, Silvia Rode, Gina Schaar, Todd Schroer, Sarah Stevens, Wendy Turner, Sally Vogl-Bauer, Ken Walsh, Andrea Wright, and Emilija Zlatkovska.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chair Elliot.

Approval of minutes from January 29, 2020: Approved without objection.

Updates: Provost Khayum gave some updates from his office. Specifically, there is work being done to understand challenges with enrollment by examining student orientations and discussing issues with advising staff. Another initiative has been looking into funding opportunities with the Lily Endowment. One idea is to focus on adult learners as many workers are experiencing workforce transitions due to automation. Finally, a group has been working on the new strategic plan and invites the council to think about some key weaknesses in the organization. Suggestions for the strategic plan can be sent to Chair Elliot.

Announcements: Chair Elliot made an announcement of a meeting on August 17 that will reflect on retention efforts in UNIV101. He also solicited nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary of the council.

2019-2020 Core Assessment Report: Director Morris discussed overall results from an assessment of core assessment during 2016-2019. She discussed some of the challenges with assessing nearly 1,200 sections and over 25,000 different rubrics. Director Morris highlighted important benchmarks in the areas of Foundations, Ways of Knowing and Embedded Experiences. Only a small minority of courses did not meet expectations. She also made some recommendations for future assessments, including fewer learning objectives in some categories and a new assessment calendar of five years. Director Morris fielded questions about CORE39 including concerns about removing courses from the core and whether assessments of benchmarks are inflated. She encouraged further suggestions to improve the core to be sent to Chair Elliot.

SOAR and Scholarly Communication: Assistant Director Wright discussed some scholarly services Rice Library offers. She presented a handout that listed many of the services available to faculty. Assistant Director Wright highlighted training in software for citations and help with open-access publishing. The library can help faculty with evaluating open-access outlets and copyright issues.

Financial Care Team Update: Student Financial Success Specialist Robey gave an update on his recent presentation to the council. After students are referred to the office, they can receive peer mentoring about financial issues and balancing them with coursework. The Financial Care Team works with students to get on a payment plan and a majority of the student cases has been resolved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Buck, Secretary