

Council of Chairs and Program Directors

Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2018

Present: Oana Armeanu, Brody Broshears, Jeri Burger, Andy Buck, Amy Chan-Hilton, Chuck Conaway, Joy Cook, Cindy Deloney-Marino, Wes Durham, Abbas Foroughi, Renee Frimming, Julia Galbus, Steve Gruenewald, Sukanya Gupta, Mellisa Hall, Jason Hardgrave, Rick Hudson, Tamara Hunt, Jessica Garces Jensen, Paul Kuban, Julie McCullough, Sudesh Mujumdar, Kimberly Parsons, Jill Raisor, Silvia Rode, Gina Schaar, Todd Schroer, Jeffery Seyler, Sarah Stevens, Connie Swenty, Sally Vogl-Bauer, Elliot Wasserman, and Gabriela Mustata Wilson.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Interim Chair Kimberly Parsons.

Approval of minutes from October 31, 2018: Approved without objection.

Remarks – Dr. Mohammed Khayum: Interim Provost Khayum thanked Interim Chair Kimberly Parsons for her service and leadership while Dr. Elliott was on sabbatical. He encouraged chairs to engage in self-reflection about their roles as leaders in their departments. He updated the council about academic program reviews and the establishment of a group that will help with guidelines for reviews. He stated the intention of academic program reviews is advisory to enable programs to make adjustments. Interim Provost Khayum also raised the issue of upcoming submissions from academic units to the strategic plan. These submissions will update the status of academic units with numerical metrics of indicators from the strategic plan.

Student Evaluations of Teaching – Dr. Katherine Draughon and Ms. Jeanne McAlister: Dr. Draughon and Ms. McAlister discussed the redesigned student evaluations of teaching. A demonstration evaluation is available on-line to examine. A faculty senate ad hoc committee also gave input into the redesign. Preliminary testing of the new evaluations took place in the summer and fall of 2018. They are looking for volunteer departments to have their entire course offerings for the spring of 2019 administer the new evaluations. In the invitation to students, there will be a new “FAQ” section designed to increase response rates. The results from the survey will also produce the students’ ‘net promoter score’ for the course. Among others issues, council members had questions especially about response rates and Dr. Draughon and Ms. McAlister gave advice for increasing rates.

Open Access Publication Funding – Mr. Peter Whiting and Ms. Andrea Wright: Mr. Whiting and Ms. Wright discussed issues surrounding open access publications. In many fields, open access publishing has shifted the cost of publishing from publishers and readers to writers. There are faculty concerns about whether the university will help offset the cost of publishing in open access journals as part of faculty development. In some fields, the cost of publishing is a burden to faculty because fees can be expensive. The library is offering to faculty a vetting of journals before they submit to make sure the journals are not predatory. One of the concerns they will address is the

reputation of the journal because predatory journals often have inferior peer-review processes. The library is open to meeting with departments and faculty about the service they offer to review open access journals.

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Buck, Secretary