

**UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PLANNING COUNCIL  
2017-18 CHAIR –JAMES COLLINS**

**January 31,2018  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** J. Boyle, R. Bromley, J. Collins, K. Lahiri, L. McNutt, K. Reinhold, K. Rethemeyer, J. Steff-Mabry, J. Stellar, J. Van Voorst, D. Wharram

**Guests:** Jon Bartow, Graduate Education  
Ann-Marie Murray, Provost's Office

---

**Approval of the Minutes from November 15, 2017**

Revisions: In the Chair's report spell out ECE, Electrical & Computing Engineering proposal. Also, in the chair's report change the word from able to any. In the subcommittee reports, add a period after Chair Collins then start the next sentence. Change put forth to proposed. Remove the redundancy of the words on the campus. Remove the word down and just state that facilities will disseminate the information to the faculty. Add in the word overall to the sentence on the decline in graduate students and it is recommended that we look to International recruitment as a source of enrollments.

Approval; 5 Abstention; 2 Opposition; 0

**Provost's Report**

Provost Stellar is in the midst of the Strategic Planning roadshow, there will be roughly 25 stops that are made by Provost Stellar and Vice President Christakis. The meetings are typically 90 minutes long, we are using a phone poll option that has created more enthusiasm and buy in from individuals. The same agenda is being followed in each session but what is coming out of the meetings vary. We are looking forward to all the feedback and answering all questions. The goal is to have the plan ready before the President's inauguration in April. We are briefing the president on 5-6 key issues within the Provost office. Some topics include our retention efforts, the needs of the growth colleges, and the Blue Ribbon Panel on. The meeting on Contingent Concerns will be sometime in February, and there are four documents supporting this initiative. The goal is to raise the contingent rate to \$5,000 per course. ODI will be having a Conversation for Change on Free Speech on 2/22 from 7pm-9pm that we hope many will be able to attend and help us address some of the consequences of free speech on campus. Chair Collins proposes that we postpone the Council agenda item on the role of the Senate in developing policy on freedom of speech until after the Conversation for Change on 2/22.

## **Chair's Report**

Two members of the council may need to be replaced as they have class conflicts this spring. The resolution from SUNY on Columbus Day and what it should be named has been referred to the University Life Council, which after considering it will bring it back to the SEC. Chair Collins has organized a senate forum on Gender Equity and Inclusion at the University, 12-2 pm February 13 in the Multi-Use Room, Campus Center West. The forum will focus on pay equity and sexual assault and harassment. Chair Collins will reach out to Dean Williams in Office of Graduate Education to inform him of the Council and Resource Committee recommendation that OGE survey academic departments to gauge their interest in having dedicated international recruiter for Masters students. Chair Collins will also reach out to the office of Campus Planning to ensure that individuals who will be impacted by pending moves be notified as soon as possible.

## **Sub-Committee Reports**

Both Sub-Committee Chairs are absent so we will postpone reports until the next meeting.

## **Old Business**

Data on Academic Preparation and Performance of freshman and transfer students: There are three documents that were shared with the committee. In looking at the data there was not a substantial difference between 2007 and 2017 freshman and transfer Student SAT scores and GPAs. Comparing EOP and Non-EOP cohorts, EOP students show better retention and graduation rates, so EOP is doing something that is working. Do we have the capability to do something similar on a wider scale to all students? Our overall retention rates are falling and are continuing to fall. Professor Li Niu, Chair of Chemistry, has students purchase the Aleks Introductory Chemistry software for his introductory classes and found that failure rates have decreased, and that the software eliminates the need for students to purchase a separate textbook, saving money as well. Professor Niu may be asked to come to a future Council meeting to discuss his success with changes in curriculum and pedagogy.

Relationships and rigor are important to student success and we are figuring out how to handle the population of students we have and how to help them succeed. Council members raised the concern that courses have prerequisites, and we should look at them closely to ensure that they are being followed, which can help alleviate frustrations. Non-EOP students in the last 10 years show a big drop in 2012. In 2003-2004 we were at 86% retention which was comparable to our peer institutions. How do we get back to being comparable with our peers? EOP students also had a dip in 2012, but not as severe as the general population of non-EOP students. What is happening in EOP that results in the higher retention rates? In EOP they have a 5-week cohort-building program that occurs prior to the start of the semester that we believe may help keep their retention. Can we create similar community-building experiences to that achieved in EOP for the general student body, and at a cost the campus can afford? Provost Stellar and Associate Provost Murray said that there are two groups of students that we are losing: those that are returning home to go to Community College; and those students that are going to better-rated institutions. Council members have a number of questions and will decide on people to invite to discuss the dimensions of student success; they tasked Chair Collins with requesting

information from Institutional Research on time-series data on three groups: Living Learning Communities, the Honors College, and, those subjected to academic dismissal. Dawn Wharram volunteered to help with collecting this information.

## **New Business**

### **Proposal to Modify Campus Impact Form:**

The Dean of Undergraduate Education is asking to add Advisement Services to the front of the campus impact form so that Advisement Services is consulted and can ensure that there is indeed no impact from new proposals, naming two recent proposals in CEHC and SPH that have had impacts. Provost Stellar requested that Council not revise the impact form and let the Provost Office handle the need for new advisors as programs grow. He argued that adding this requirement to the CIF form would make it less efficient and more cumbersome for the departments requesting a change. He said that his office is committed to providing the necessary advising support. A Council member made a motion to table the requested change until the Provost has discussed the matter with Office of Undergraduate Education. 5 voted to approve this motion, and 1 abstained.

### **Contingent Academic Faculty Proposals:**

There are two implementation documents, one concerning teaching-intensive faculty and a path to continuing appointment for them, another a step system for Part-Time Lecturers at the University, which were distributed to Council members for discussion at this meeting. The Council and Senate want to move this conversation out to the campus more generally. On the Provost's request, the Council will wait to discuss this issue until the Provost's Office has discussed the matter with President Rodriguez. Provost Stellar will report back to the Council after his meeting with the President, and the Council will resume discussion of the issues at that time.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting ends at 3:45pm.