

Academic Committee Meeting
August 11, 2020
10:30AM– 12:00PM
ZOOM

Attendees:

Bagchi, Rajesh
Boyle, Kevin
Carlson, Kevin
Ghandforoush, Parviz
Gnyawali, Devi
Hall, Janice Branch
Hunnings, Kay
Khansa, Lara
Maher, Jack
McGehee, Nancy
Mitchell, Elizabeth
Russell, Robin
Singal, Vijay
Sumichrast, Robert

Absent:

Recording Secretary

Ridpath, Kimberly

Minutes/Action Items/Announcements

Dean Sumichrast welcomed the committee and gave a special welcome to Janice Branch Hall, back from the summer and her maternity leave. He said he is working with our advancement office and Donna Wertalik, to develop a short welcome back video for our students. We will also schedule a town hall for students. Pamplin has suspended production of its magazine but will begin a monthly electronic newsletter called the Pamplin Pulse. The first issue will be emailed on August 24th and be sent to all Pamplin alumni. Departments and other offices that admit students and guests should have additional masks available. Departments should provide faculty with additional masks in case they are needed in classes. We are investigating the possibility of organizing a Pamplin Virtual Commencement in December.

Activities and Resources

Sumichrast referred the committee to graphs and charts developed by Kay Hunnings and Lara Khansa. These trends have helped mitigate the budget reduction imposed on all colleges. The committee discussed these trends. Parviz Ghandforoush reported a substantial increase in the number of admitted students in the MIT and PMBA and Evening MBA. The results are very

encouraging and will help Pamplin's resource base in the coming year. Ghandforoush noted that enrollments in the MIT and Evening MBA can change significantly into the first few days of classes.

Budget changes

Sumichrast said the average reduction among all colleges was 5%, compared with last year. The actual situation for Pamplin is more complicated. Its University-supplied budget (PIBB) was reduced less than 5%, compared to last year. However, the reduction compared to planned spending was close to 8% or \$3.8 M. The state and then university will reassess available revenue and update Pamplin's budget—probably late in September. For several reasons, Pamplin's budget for FY2021 is very uncertain.

Sumichrast said that department heads had requested a list of the specific budget reductions that would be implemented this year and in the future. He referred the committee to a table prepared by Kay Hunnings. Hunnings described savings due to reassignments after resignations and retirements. She explained that some of the retirements are expected to occur after the current year. The committee discussed possible reductions in funding for graduate students. Pamplin will use all resources from the graduate school to fund graduate students and at this time, we expect funding to be similar in FY 2022 but as with other aspects of the budget, this is subject to change by the Graduate School. The committee discussed the planned changes. Summer grants will be provided to new faculty members beginning with the first summer after a faculty member joins, that is, between their first and second academic years. If desired, department heads can request early payment of that summer grant in the summer before a faculty member officially joins. In such cases of early payment, the faculty member will not receive a summer grant between their first and second academic years.

Allocation questions and suggestions

Kevin Carlson provided an overview of the assignment for PhD and Master students. Sumichrast noted that the college intentionally prioritized funding for PhD students. He asked if departments would prefer to alter that decision. The consensus was to continue to prioritize doctoral students. There was discussion about how allocations were made to departments which may continue at a future meeting.

Kevin Carlson provided a brief overview of the status of the Engage Undergrad TA Program. The committee discussed the allocation and funding. Some departments are providing additional resources to access a larger number of TA's. Sumichrast said we will look at this allocation model as a trial and will use the experiences this year and consider a revision for the next year.

Pamplin allocates faculty to departments and programs using judgement informed by data. Generally, departments producing more student credit hours, having more majors and to a smaller extent, producing more elite research receive more positions. It referred the committee to the ratio of SCH per faculty member and the ratio of majors per faculty member. Departments with relatively high ratios are more likely to receive additional faculty. The committee briefly discussed using weighted student credit hours instead of SCH. Hunnings will

work with the UDC IT team to see if weighted student credit hours can be determined in the UDC system. The way faculty and staff are allocated to departments will be further discussed at our next meeting.

Alumni speakers in classes

Elizabeth Mitchell discussed the use of alumni speakers in classes. She requested help from department heads in tracking the number of alumni speakers. She will follow up with them.

Masks in class

Khansa shared a protocol that will help faculty if in a situation that they would need assistance dealing with safety for their classes; specifically, students that will not wear a mask. The committee reviewed specific language for a syllabus that George Morgan had drafted. Khansa will consolidate various suggestions of common language for syllabi and distribute it to the AC. Department heads will share with their faculty as a tool for communicating consistently with students.

Action Items:

1. The committee will continue its discussion of a system for allocating resources to departments.
2. Department Heads will suggest recommendations to update the protocol document referring to "masks in class" and Khansa will have the updated document shared with the faculty and staff.