

**Academic Committee Meeting
December 10, 2020
1:30-3:00PM
ZOOM**

Attendees:

Bagchi, Rajesh
Carlson, Kevin
Ghandforoush, Parviz
Easterwood, John
Hall, Janice Branch
Hunnings, Kay
Khansa, Lara
Maher, Jack
McGehee, Nancy
Russell, Robin
Singal, Vijay
Sumichrast, Robert

Absent:

Boyle, Kevin
Gnyawali, Devi

Recording Secretary

Ridpath, Kimberly

Minutes/Action Items/Announcements

Dean Sumichrast welcomed members of the academic committee. He recognized Nancy McGehee for her successful efforts as head of the Feiertag Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, noting that she will complete her tenure in summer 2021. He also recognized McGehee for being editor of the Pamplin Elite Journal of Travel Research. Kay Hunnings reminded committee members about the deadline and procedure to update telework agreements. Hunnings and Janice Branch Hall described an effort to develop staff awards and recognition at the college level. They encouraged committee members to review the staff awards summary provided with today's meeting materials. Since this is a draft, Hunnings and Hall encourage feedback to be sure everyone feels comfortable with the procedure. Hall said she has been working with Deloitte on an event to foster leadership skills on February 5, 2021. While the event is focused on A/P faculty and staff, the Academic Committee is encouraged to attend. Sumichrast reminded everyone to encourage their faculty to be conscious of the five spring break dates. Elizabeth Mitchell updated the committee on fundraising success for the Engage program.

Implementation Plan (5.4 and 5.7)

Sumichrast said Kevin Carlson has been leading the effort to develop an implementation plan in support of Pamplin's strategic plan. The implementation plan has several strategic objectives

linked to the strategic plan. Each strategic objective is supported by several goals, often with specific metrics to measure progress. The implementation plan lists a set of actions the college will take to make progress on goals. Sumichrast said today's discussion will focus on strategic initiative 5.4 (research). If there is time, the committee will begin discussion of 5.7 (pillars). He asked that the committee consider whether achieving the goals of strategic initiatives 5.4 assure that progress is made on the initiative. In addition, he asked if the planned actions will lead to achieving the goals. Each action has costs which have not yet been estimated. The committee should consider the relative of importance of the proposed actions. Sumichrast discouraged the committee from considering the precise levels associated with the metrics, at this time.

Kevin Carlson described 5.4 as an expansion of what Pamplin has been doing and measuring over the past five years. Carlson invited the committee for open discussion. There was strong support for measuring progress with elite publications and improved ranking by UT-Dallas. Some were in favor of putting more emphasis on UT-Dallas journals rather than on the full list of Pamplin Elite Journals. Concern was expressed about the availability of resources to achieve a UT-Dallas ranking of 50 or better. There was strong sentiment for reducing the number of goals and actions. The committee recognized reasons for including a goal for sponsored research but preferred that it be in a section other than research. There was support for including a goal for Ph.D. student placement but not one for publications. While the committee agreed that editorship of an elite journal should be encouraged, there was no support for including it as a goal.

Carlson will revise, eliminate and move some of the goals of 5.4. He will also revise the actions planned to achieve the goals.

PCLE

Sumichrast reminded the committee that the college has formed the Pamplin Community for Leadership Engagement or PCLE. PCLE is not an advisory board in the usual sense. Instead, PCLE facilitates communication about practices and priorities among the colleges' many advisory boards. The goal of PCLE is to improve the practices in each advisory board by sharing these ideas. Sumichrast asked department heads and unit leaders to allow their boards' PCLE representatives time on the agenda, to share these ideas.

Advancement

Elizabeth Mitchell provided a quick overview of Pamplin's Philanthropic Fundraising Progress. It has increased a great deal which has been a joint effort and is very much appreciated. She summarized the three-year fundraising totals. Mitchell also shared the changing of culture of philanthropy in the past three years. Too many philanthropic Pamplin alumni support athletics exclusively.

US&P Survey Results

Sumichrast welcomed John Easterwood, Chair of the US&P Committee, to lead a discussion on the results of the survey it conducted earlier this semester. Sumichrast said he hoped the

survey results would improve student learning and experiences in the spring. Easterwood summarized key findings from the survey. They shared insights into how changes by faculty can improve spring courses. Easterwood suggested faculty needs to communicate better and recommended faculty to go over their canvas sites on the first day as well as sporadically throughout the semester, as a refresher. Easterwood led a discussion with the committee. Parviz Ghandforoush shared that a lot of the results are consistent with his observations of graduate students.

Wrap Up

Sumichrast said the committee would meet in January, to continue the discussion of the implementation plan and consider the creation of an organization, some what like a faculty association, as well as other topics. He thanked the committee for their efforts during the pandemic and wished them happy holidays.