

**Academic Committee Meeting**  
**February 9, 2021**  
**2:30-4:00PM**  
**ZOOM**

**Attendees:**

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

**Absent:**

**Recording Secretary**

Ridpath, Kimberly

**Minutes/Action Items/Announcements**

Dean Sumichrast welcomed the committee. He updated the committee on GBAC news; the contract has been signed and pre-construction of the first building is starting. The Future Faculty Diversity Program preparations are planned for March with the program in the fall. This year, Pamplin plans to better integrate FFDP with the general Pamplin tenure track allocation. He welcomed Phil Xiang as the next Department Head of Hospitality and Tourism Management and congratulated Nancy McGehee for her success. Phil will begin attending AC meetings.

**Reopening Plans**

As vaccines are more widely used, the danger of COVID-19 will be reduced. It seems realistic that Virginia Tech will operate with in person classes and offices open by fall of 2021. It's possible that there will be some significant opening by late spring or summer. Pamplin needs to plan for the best way to operate as conditions change. Kay Hunnings referred the committee to the results of a recent caregiving survey. Many members of the Pamplin community are struggling for a variety of reasons. We need to consider how Pamplin should operate after it is possible to safely meet in an in-person environment. Hunnings invited committee members to share their thoughts as an open discussion. The committee briefly discussed if they should

allow classes to be online, under certain circumstances, once we are back. This discussion will continue at future meetings.

### **Implementation Plan – 5.6 Build a model inclusive community**

The discussion focused on Strategic Initiative 5.6—Build a model inclusive community. Carlson explained why the Virginia Tech Climate Survey is included as a benchmark; a limitation of the COACHE survey is its sole focus on the experiences of teaching & research faculty while the Virginia Tech Climate Survey addresses the experiences of all employee groups.

Janice Branch Hall gave an overview of the Implementation Plan for Strategic Initiative 5.6 and discussed the proposed goals, metrics, and levels. The four goals align with the InclusiveVT institutional goals. Opportunities to advance InclusiveVT institutional goals were identified and metrics were developed to measure progress. Levels were determined using benchmarking data and guidance from the following: The Virginia Tech Difference: Advancing Beyond Boundaries Strategic Plan, Partnership for Incentive-Based Budget (PIBB), University Data Commons, and industry-specific knowledge and insight.

The next steps of the process include Hall finalizing the action plans for Strategic Initiative 5.6 that will help us achieve our goals. Committee members were encouraged to email Hall ideas to enhance the action plan.

### **Advancement**

Elizabeth Mitchell described some of the success and plans Pamplin has for fundraising, engagement, and communications. Last year, the university cancelled Giving Day. This year, it will be held from noon-to-noon February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Mitchell shared a planning presentation to show details. The focus is on increasing the number of unique donors. Mitchell described planned challenges reporting and publicity that will help the college increase engagement and philanthropy during this period. Mitchell encouraged committee members to sign up to be a giving day ambassador as well as their advisory boards.

### **Summer/Winter funding**

Sumichrast invited Hunnings to remind the committee on some of the changes we made at the start of the pandemic to reduce spending. They included not renewing certain positions, reassigning staff to cover open positions due to retirement or resignation, freezing faculty and other hiring, eliminating travel and events, no longer printing and mailing materials including the magazine, eliminating the ETS exam for the AACSB Assurance of Learning requirement, etc. Additional cost savings were planned for the next fiscal year.

Pamplin's budget reduction was not as large as originally expected so the college has reduced some reductions planned. The summer research grant program reduction has been cancelled. Some of the open positions have been filled. Plans to change funding for the winter session to match that of the summer session were postponed for one year. While this change to the winter model is still planned, it is being modified to reduce the effect on departments.

Sumichrast shared the summer and winter instruction costs and allocations to departments. Specifically referred the committee to a graph showing summer and winter session enrollment from 2012-2020. This graph shows that total enrollment in these sessions has not increased. Instead, winter enrollment is substituting for summer enrollment.

Hunnings referred the committee to a report showing institutional cost per SCH by term 2019 and shared the breakdown per department, comparing summer and winter. In addition, she shared the Pamplin summer and winter departmental distribution model. The current plan is to increase the summer rate from \$125 to \$175 per credit hour. The winter session would be funded at the same rate. The committee discussed why instructional cost was currently much higher in the winter than the summer. Department heads also discussed possible implications for course offerings and instruction if the change is implemented.