

Academic Committee Meeting  
January 30, 2020  
1:00-2:30 P.M.  
Pamplin 1028

**Attendees:**

Carlson, Kevin  
Gnyawali, Devi  
Hunnings, Kay  
Khansa, Lara  
Maher, Jack  
McGehee, Nancy  
Mitchell, Elizabeth  
Russell, Robin  
Singal, Vijay  
Sumichrast, Robert

**Absent:**

Bagchi, Rajesh  
Boyle, Kevin  
Hall, Janice -maternity leave

**Recording Secretary:**

Ridpath, Kimberly

**Minutes/Action Items/Announcements**

Dean Sumichrast welcomed the committee and noted that the action items from the last meeting are still ongoing.

- Kim Shanahan will be the May commencement speaker.
- The University is shutting down the steam May 17-22. This means affecting domestic hot water, high- and low-pressure steam, including ability to heat buildings and compressed air.
- The University has issued a communication about the coronavirus to all students. Travel to China is being limited. No cases have been reported at Virginia Tech.
- Xavier Font - University of Surrey - Nancy McGehee shared a zoom presentation taking place on January 31, 2020 - Academic Hypocrisy and how we can be sustainable.

## Campaign

Vijay Singal said that he requested a few minutes to discuss GBAC and the ongoing campaign with the Academic Committee. Vijay summarized features of GBAC and the impact it will have on Pamplin's faculty/staff programs, departments and students. Members of the committee indicated their support for GBAC. Singal proposed that each member of the committee commits \$5,000 to GBAC by February 14<sup>th</sup>. He explained how this participation would be leveraged in discussions with donors and central administration. Elizabeth Mitchell expanded on the significance of 100% participation.

While GBAC is the current focus of fundraising for Pamplin, we plan to have most commitments for it within three years. Pamplin's campaign includes securing financial support for departments and other Pamplin units to support faculty, students and programs. Sumichrast asked that each of the boards associated with the college, appoint a member to act like a "champion" for the campaign. Pamplin's campaign co-chairs—Jake Lutz, Bridget Ryan Berman, and Mike Clarke have started contacting department heads and other leaders of Pamplin affiliated boards to identify the right person to be the "champion". Virginia Tech will hold its annual giving day March 18-19. Mitchell described Pamplin plans to increase participation. The University is not setting a dollar goal.

## Faculty Recruiting Process

Sumichrast requested a discussion of the faculty recruiting process, including how it is conducted overall and how diversity is considered in the process. He reminded department heads that he has delegated the approval of new positions for the Pamplin Hiring Plan to Kay Hunnings and Kevin Carlson. Carlson and Hunnings are developing a written policy to formalize the recruitment process that acknowledges appropriate variations among the departments. The committee discussed the process and overall goal for formalizing some aspects of it. There was also a discussion about the process for the selection of a faculty member from another department and the role that this external member should play. Carlson shared that the conversation is moving forward on the balance and priorities of each department, involving tenure and non-tenure track faculty.

Sumichrast congratulated departments for efforts to increase diversity among their faculty. He reported that in fall 2020, we expect new underrepresented minority faculty in ACIS, BIT, MGT HTM, and MKTG. The committee discussed aspects of diversity in

faculty recruiting including the role for the Pamplin Director of Diversity and Inclusion and the selection and role for the Diversity Advocate.

### **IT Data and Software Procurement**

Department Heads and others have expressed frustration with Virginia Tech's IT Data and Software Procurement process. Singal and Jack Maher developed a formal proposal to streamline the process in various ways. Sumichrast brought these ideas to the Commission on University Support (CUS). CUS arranged for a staff member in IT Data and Software Procurement to discuss the issues identified by Pamplin. The Commission plans to follow up with a discussion at its next meeting. Sumichrast is also trying to arrange a meeting for department heads and others involved in procurement to discuss the process with representatives from Network Infrastructure & Services.

### **Action Items:**

1. Mitchell will send out GBAC commitment details.
2. Mitchell will share information on how to become a "Giving Day Ambassador".
3. Department Heads to request feedback from their faculty on GBAC commitments.

### **Action Items from December 10, 2019:**

1. Hunnings will provide additional reports for EMBA and PMBA for the 2020 Retreat.
2. Carlson will revise Policy 450.