

Academic Committee Meeting
November 5, 2020
1:30-3:00PM
ZOOM

Attendees:

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

Absent:

Recording Secretary

Ridpath, Kimberly

Minutes/Action Items/Announcements

Dean Sumichrast welcomed the committee. He said that Jay Winkeler, Derick Maggard and Randall Billingsley would join the committee later in the meeting. Sumichrast said that the college has received some very good news. The Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers named Virginia Tech winner of the 2020 Award for Entrepreneurial Research. Sumichrast recognized the contributions of the faculty publishing in entrepreneurship especially David Townsend, Academic Director for Apex Center for Entrepreneurs and Assistant Professor of Management and Richard Hunt, Co-Chair, PERC Research Committee and Assistant Professor of Management. Sumichrast said faculty in the management and other Virginia Tech departments contributed to the ranking as did resources through Apex.

Best Value Schools ranked Pamplin's BS #13 in the country. This continues a number of important recognitions for the college and its programs.

Sumichrast said Parviz Ghandforoush and the graduate studies and policies committee is working to convert the professional MBA to a fully online program. Ghandforoush expects this to expand the reach of the program. Pamplin expects to run the program through the Enterprise financial model which will return a higher percent of tuition to the college than the current model.

Tenure Track Hiring

Pamplin is continuing to implement resource allocation principles agreed to in October 2020. The first step was to agree on a model for allocating department staff and operational budget. Today's focus is on tenure track faculty. Sumichrast asked committee members to review document 2a—Process to hire TT. Some department heads offered suggestions about accounting for visiting faculty and publications while a faculty member is on summer contract grants which will be adopted. After discussion, there was agreement that the process was a good starting point.

Sumichrast said that tenure track hiring decisions had to be made before the process was finalized. Along with Kevin Carlson and Kay Hunnings, he worked with department heads to make decisions about hiring for fall 2021. Hunnings shared a spreadsheet showing factors that influenced tenure track hiring decisions. The university has approved exemption to the hiring freeze for participants in the Future Faculty Diversity Program. Sumichrast is hopeful that later this month, Pamplin will receive additional exemptions. This year, decisions were especially influenced by funding and net cost to hire. The college has required departments to secure funding other than Pamplin central funding to make offers. Hunnings explained details of funding sources and costs. The committee also discussed metrics associated with research, doctoral programs, and other factors.

Teaching

Lara Khansa described efforts of the Undergraduate Studies & Policies Committee, to understand the current learning environment for students. She directed the committee to review the attachment 3a—US&P Survey. These results will be made available to all Pamplin faculty after US&P has completed its analysis. Individual comments will be less widely shared. Department heads offered their own observations and conclusions about student learning.

The committee acknowledged the provost's desire to increase in person learning in the spring semester. Barriers and potential solutions to in person classes, were discussed.

Kevin Carlson provided an update on Engage, the undergraduate teaching assistant program. Pamplin requires at least \$100,000, to continue the program in the spring. The value and cost of the program was discussed.

AACSB Assurance of Learning (AoL)

AACSB approved new standards for business accreditation in August 2020. Sumichrast said one of the most significant changes was Standard 5 which covers Assurance of Learning. He directed the committee to review attachment 4a—Essential Elements of AACB AoL and attachment 4a—Example of Assessment Plan and Results Table. Khansa explained the roles for the Undergraduate Studies & Policies Committee and Undergraduate Assurance of Learning Committee, related to standard 5. Graduate Assurance of Learning is the work of Graduate Studies & Policies committee and Doctoral Committee.

Khansa directed the committee to attachment 4b—Undergraduate Learning Goals. She said Undergraduate Studies & Policies will either confirm or revise these goals, in the spring. In

either case, the undergraduate assurance of learning committee will work with faculty, to begin measuring achievement of these goals, using exam questions and other in-class measures. Sumichrast encouraged department heads to work with their faculty and representatives to the appropriate committees, to assure the college has a meaningful and well-designed system for assurance of learning.

P&T Revisions to the Faculty Handbook

A resolution from CFA continues to evolve before a final vote at University Council. Sumichrast directed the committee to attachment 5—CFA 2020-21A. Carlson described the most significant aspects in the proposal and explained how it would impact Pamplin. He shared that it may help to have the department heads take the college expectations to the governance for review. Jack Finney agreed this would be beneficial for the faculty to have a voice in these processes. This resolution is currently in the second reading status at University Council.

LLC's Status

Sumichrast said Pamplin has led a very successful LLC, called Innovate since 2013. As part of the creation of GBAC, Pamplin is collaborating with the College of Science to create an Analytics LLC and with the College of Architecture and Urban Studies to create an LLC aligned with the Human Condition (Rhizome). Along with the increased number of LLC's, the college is reorganizing its support for them. Lara Khansa and the Office of Undergraduate Programs will have primary responsibility for designing and operating any LLC's associated with Pamplin. This includes Innovate which had been operated by the Apex Center for Entrepreneurs. Khansa provided an update on the status of each LLC. Khansa shared her role is to make each LLC stand and keep them working but her goal is to involve the faculty as much as possible, to help them succeed. Human Condition (Rhizome) is planned to start Fall 2022 and Analytics LLC is planned for fall 2021.

Sesquicentennial

Elizabeth Mitchell and Randall Billingsley described their role and the upcoming sesquicentennial celebration, which is to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Virginia Tech, from fall 2021 through December 2022. They explained preliminary plans for Pamplin's involvement and referred to a table where faculty can contribute ideas for the celebration's themes. Mitchell shared what the expected timeline would be and the current meetings that are taking place. They have requested everyone share this project within your departments for a collective feedback by December 15th.