

Academic Committee Meeting
September 29, 2020
1:00-2:30PM
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 academic committee. He said we would use today's meeting to follow up on a system for allocating resources to departments.

Alumni Town Hall

Sumichrast reminded the committee that Pamplin will host a town hall for all alumni, on Wednesday from 1:00-2:00PM. Alumni will be able to type in questions about anything so the academic committee and college center directors should be ready to respond. The town hall will include three presentations. Sumichrast will provide an overview of the return to class during the pandemic. Kevin Carlson will describe Engage. Kennedy Novak, a current student and engaged TA will share her experiences and answer questions. Janice Branch Hall will provide an update on the climate and diversity and inclusion activities in Pamplin this year. The committee speculated on questions that alumni might have.

Current and spring modality and engagement

Lara Khansa said faculty who are sure about the modality they will use in the spring semester should report as soon as possible. The committee discussed ways to increase class engagement.

Resource Allocations

The committee discussed a document, "Pamplin Resource and Allocations Principles and Practice." Sumichrast had discussed this document individually with each department head, prior to today's meeting. The college will provide greater transparency in how resources are allocated to the academic departments. As described in the document, different types of resources will be allocated for different reasons. Today the committee is considering a proposal for a system to allocate budget for operating and staff. At future meetings, the academic committee will discuss data and models that will assist good judgment in allocating tenure track faculty, non-tenure track faculty and funding for PhD students, to departments. There were questions about the ideas in the document but no objections to moving forward in general.

The committee focused on the department allocation resources for staff and operating in departments. Sumichrast explained that the proposed system was designed to encourage departments to increase Pamplin's funding from PIBB through teaching and majors without sacrificing instruction quality. Kay Hunnings explained the worksheet for FY2021 in more detail. After responding to questions and comments, Hunnings asked committee members to bring forward the FY22 tab. She demonstrated how the budget for next year would be determined through the FY22 tab. Hunnings and Sumichrast responded to questions. Department heads will follow up with Hunnings to verify the accuracy of data in the model.

Vijay Singal proposed modifying the parameters to give majors more weight as compared to WSCH. The committee discussed the reasons for retaining vs changing these weights.

Academic Committee will schedule a meeting quickly to finalize support for a model that funds staff and operations in departments.

Diversity and Inclusion

Janice Branch Hall gave a brief update on the Future Faculty Diversity Program and provided the department hosts and participating schools that will be represented on Oct. 6. This will be a hiring and recruitment event and there may or may not be offers made due to our current hiring status. Hall was very appreciative of the departments for all their support of this program.

Hall described the current Faculty Inclusive Retention Strategy and shared how successful faculty recruitment has been this past year. She noted the importance of this strategy to maintain retention and the success of our faculty.

Hall discussed faculty research and the LINK team. She described that corporate partners are interested in faculty research where business intersects with matters of social justice, diversity, inclusion, and equity. She has asked department heads to reach out to faculty to see who is

currently doing research in these areas, so we know who to connect LINK with to discuss potential partnerships and request resources with corporate partners.

Hall touched on the current social climate relating to racism and racial injustice. She engaged Pamplin Black faculty, staff, and doctoral students after racial incidents have taken place and felt compelled to share their collective sentiments. She shared a document with themes describing their feelings and how they are being impacted. She noted that Pamplin has an opportunity to support all stakeholders through education, development, and cultural transformation. The committee was very appreciative of all the work on this and shared how important this is.

Pamplin Volunteer Town Hall

Sumichrast mentioned that we will be holding an additional alumni town hall meeting on October 22nd 11am-12pm and it will focus on alumni volunteers.