

Council of Chairs
Aug. 11, 2015

Present: Floyd Beckford (for Margie Tucker), Robin Benke, Bryan Hoyt, Jeff Cantrell, Frank Frey, Alex Edwards, Sandy Huguenin, Donna Henry, Tom Costa, Amelia Harris, Rachel Tighe (for Amy Clark and John Adrian), Cathie Collins, Michael McNulty

Update from Chancellor Henry

- Marcia Quesenberry will retire on Aug. 21 and Rue Gembach on Sept. 19; both positions have been posted.
- Bob Bragg, Vice Chancellor for Development and College Relations, began work in early July. He is familiar with the area as his wife has family in Abingdon. Bob is a Virginia native who grew up in Williamsburg and holds degrees from Virginia Tech and William and Mary.
- Our next capital campaign will kick off in 2017 with a focus on Thomas Jefferson's vision of a university.
- The Board of Visitors renewed Teresa Sullivan's contract through 2018. President Sullivan has strengthened ties with UVa-Wise, and has encouraged Chancellor Henry to participate in U.Va. events such as the Board of Visitors' retreat and Deans' retreat.
- U.Va. has a new development officer, Mark Luellen, who will report jointly to Bob Sweeney at U.Va. and to Chancellor Henry. Luellen has been working closely with Bob Bragg to help him get acclimated.
- The College has historically been referred to as a branch of the University of Virginia, but state statute defines us as a division of U.Va. According to the federal statutes, our independent accreditation from U.Va. follows, as we are a division and separate agency. Nothing has changed but the language, and all communications must use the word "division." We are the public liberal arts college of the University of Virginia.

Provost Huguenin asked the group if they had news to share.

- Jeff Cantrell reported that new faculty member Cody Talbert received her doctorate.
- Bryan Hoyt said the Department of Social Sciences has two new hires: Alexandria "Alex" Reynolds and Ron Florida.
- Tom Costa said Anthony Cashio is an outstanding teacher, as reflected in the increase in the number of students minoring in philosophy.
- Frank Frey reported that Beth Hirschman worked all summer on a marketing plan for the region.

A discussion was held regarding new faculty. Most department chairs expressed concern that new faculty not isolate themselves. They need instructional development and mentoring in teaching, and senior faculty could be of great help. Chancellor Henry noted that Peter Seldon will return in October for another workshop on developing a teaching portfolio. It was suggested that opportunities for informal professional development would be helpful, especially as a means to meet faculty in other disciplines. Regular meetings with the chief academic officer, as well as publicly celebrating accomplishments, were also mentioned.

The tenure and promotion policy was discussed at length, focusing on scholarship in particular. The definition of scholarship is different for every discipline, and there are no consistent guidelines. It was noted that one cannot control what is published, but faculty members should be able to show they have a scholarship agenda or plan in place. A committee of faculty, chaired by Frank Frey, has been working to clarify the scholarship policy. The standards did not change, but should be clearer. A revision will go before the Faculty Senate this semester.

The condition of classroom buildings and the campus in general were mentioned. Mr. Huguenin will form a group of faculty to tour the academic areas and make a list of improvements needed.

All departments need to review their course listings in the College Catalog and remove courses that have not been offered recently. They are not deleted from Jenzabar and can easily be returned to the Catalog if needed.

Mr. Huguenin said faculty attendance at Friday's academic planning workshop is important. Facilitators will guide discussion in setting goals and outcomes, and someone will do the data entry in Weave for the departments. The difficulty of using Weave was discussed, and it was requested that David Klocek be asked to research alternative programs.

Tom Costa revisited three main points of the QEP: (1) a director will be hired; (2) the Writing Center's budget will be increased to hire more tutors and purchase equipment, and the Center will move to the new library; and (3) a series of workshops will be offered to faculty. The purpose of the workshop is to encourage faculty to add a writing component to their courses and to develop new writing-intensive courses. The first workshop will be held in the fall of 2016 for 8-12 faculty, and will last two days. Faculty will receive a stipend of \$800 to attend a workshop; an additional \$800 if they demonstrate how the training was used in their teaching; and \$1,200 to develop a new course. These workshops will be conducted by UVa-Wise faculty who will be paid \$3,000 per workshop. Student tutors will receive training, with emphasis on writing in the discipline.

Ms. Harris gave an update on the SACS report submitted on Feb. 27. Of the standards to be addressed, we were asked to provide further evidence for several items; we are in the process of complying. In a few instances the issue was language; historically the College has been referred to as a branch of the University of Virginia, but by SACS definition and by the Code of Virginia we are a division. The next report is due Sept. 4 and the on-site visit is scheduled for Oct. 20-22.

Funds are available for student trips through the Academic Enrichment Fund. The trips must have an academic component. The application is found under Resources on the Academic Affairs web page; funds are limited to \$500 per trip.

The Undergraduate Research Symposium, co-sponsored with Emory and Henry College, will be held on our campus this spring; the date has not been set. The COPLAC Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held April 21-22 at Georgia College and State University.

Mr. Huguenin noted the Online Education Handbook is available under Resources on the Academic Affairs web page. Online courses are available through Atomic Learning and are open to all employees.

It is important that faculty attend College events such as Fall Convocation, December Recognition of Graduates and Commencement. Faculty who need to borrow regalia should contact Darlene Moore in the Office of the Provost.

The Faculty Handbook was recently updated and is available online as both a PDF and a searchable document.