**Council of Chairs**

**March 23, 2021**

**Present:** Trisha Folds-Bennett, Amelia Harris, Andy Cox, Bryan Hoyt, John Cull, Robin Benke, Amy Clark, Ben Mays, Jacob Somervell, Nancy Haugen, Robin Woodard, Scott Bevins, Tom Costa

**Strategic Plan Focal Initiatives: Pillar 1 - Reimagining the Core**

* Liberal Arts Core
  + Has there been enough student representation? Particularly with focus on recruitment and retention of students, what would attract them?
  + Concerns about expenses of some components – with new classes, have we considered the cost?
  + Challenges for RN-BSN students and transfer of credits.
  + Cultural credits have been more flexible during pandemic, but more virtual events will likely continue.
  + Any discussion at the state level about working towards competency-based credits? Perhaps as part of the Transfer VA project.
  + For Education programs, the whole focus is state-level competencies. Licensing is so prescriptive, it makes a change in liberal arts core challenging. Ditto for nursing. Essentials for nursing is being changed to competency-based. Competency are not necessarily course specific. For example, for Education competencies in math, teaching math is a competency, so created a new course.
* Experiential Learning
  + Broaden so that community service and volunteerism is included. Not only would this be good for our students, but would address “town and gown” issues. Perhaps students getting credit for community service.
  + Community engagement should be included as well.
* Professional Development
  + College should have a person to serve as internship liaison. Someone who is in touch with local businesses, other entities that have opportunities for our students. Make sure they are connected to Chambers of Commerce.
  + We need to invite Neva to speak with us.
  + Company called Ripple helps college students network with professionals
  + Every department should have a liaison to Career Discovery so they are more aware of the individual disciplines.
  + For many disciplines, internships or job shadowing, is important to students who are considering various career paths.
  + Wise and Ready task force is working on many of these questions
* Academic Calendar
  + Maymester and Jan term – how might we use them?

**Strategic Plan Focal Initiatives: Pillar 2 – Program Portfolio Analysis**

* Program Analysis
* Online Education
  + Current enrollments suggest that we should not close the door to alternatives
  + There are people in the state that we cannot reach through F2F, but how do we balance that with our traditional aged population? How would we design classes that would reach working adults, degree completers, etc. Perhaps certain majors, degrees would be more conducive.
  + Would we want to limit online to non-traditional students?
  + Perhaps this is an opportunity for our transfer students. We may lost transfers because we don’t offer enough online degrees, degree completion
  + We could look at online offerings as tools, but should not be our core model. Do we have enough data that suggest that students are actually interested in online offerings? How do we have a sense of our “competitive edge?”
  + We should conduct a survey or study to determine the need. UVA has done extensive research on this – they have shown that there are 1 million people in VA who need to complete their degree – could we attract some of these students? How can we access this data?
  + Are there programs that we could offer that we are not offering?
  + We should not deny that the pandemic has changed things. We have invested a lot of money in getting our faculty prepared to offer online – how can we take advantage of this?
  + If we outsource our online course management: make sure that third party aligns with our values and does not assume control. We need to be in control of our program, courses and student experience. Some third parties take 50% of the revenue so we need to keep that cost in mind.
  + We need to acknowledge that virtual school is an idea that will not go away post-pandemic
  + How do you balance quality that we achieve F2F with the demand for remote learning?
  + What are the challenges when we offer some courses/degrees online and not others? Will some degrees be more expensive – does it change the cost structure? Would we lost students?
* Masters Degree Escalation

**Fall Schedule**

* Strong back to campus message for faculty and students.
* Class size and seat management (review docs from Narda)
  + We can plan to hold more students in classrooms, but still need to be cautious and not cram students in
  + Narda has all the seating capacity information
* Time of day
  + MWF underutilized – look at schedules and see if you can schedule some TTh classes to MWF
  + Need for early morning classes
  + Robin will work with Narda for adjustments regarding labs
* Adjunct and overload usage
  + Apply same strategy we used in the fall
* Online offerings
* COVID contingency planning