Council of Chairs

April 13, 2021

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

* Course Enrollment Management
* Narda reports there’s a delay in receiving transcripts
* Consider what you would do to adjust a faculty member’s load if they have a course without anyone in it or with low numbers.
  + Requests for online courses
    - Soc Science has always offered a few online classes every semester
    - Moving towards fall – for students who need to continue working, many students could take 3-4 face to face classes and an online class
    - Overall, athletes are not doing well in online classes
  + Many departments sit down with their students during advising and try to work around their work schedules
    - History/Phil tries to offer 3-4 night classes and late afternoon classes each semester to accommodate working students. Even with more online offerings, Tom would expect his faculty to still be present on campus.
    - MTH/CSE typically leaves it up to students to figure out their scheduling
    - VPAR encourages students not to work if possible. Sets course times in a smaller window so students can plan work schedules around those times.
    - BUS aren’t seeing a lot of issues right now.
    - We need to entertain the idea and look at options for online programming down the road. Discussions will need to be data informed.
    - Narda made note that several students took advantage of the online courses due to COVID. Only 8-10 students across the board. Almost all business or social science majors. Amy noted she has a student who has been able to work towards completing her degree due to online offerings.
    - Targeted online majors
    - Parthenon looked at what students in this area are seeking and what students in other rural areas are seeking. They believe there could be some success in online programming, suggesting a third party to run it (example: Purdue).
* Childcare
  + Prior to the pandemic, Chancellor Henry worked on a solution with Ballad Health. She is having conversations with them again.
  + Potential that Biden administration will have money set aside for businesses and communities that want to open childcare facilities so people can get back to work.
  + It requires a license and huge liability analysis.
  + Comm department – it has never been a problem to help accommodate each other. Can it be left to each department? Amy appeals to chairs to be flexible.
  + Soc science – rotating class scheduling days by semester to try and accommodate faculty. Still gauge productivity.
  + His/phil – be aware of situations, rotating schedules through the departments so it’s equitable
  + How do you respond to staff concerns with equity in flexible schedules?
    - Bryan – we work many long hours, evenings, and weekends. No way to compare the two. We invested money in our degrees and are expected to continue research, etc.
    - Narda – a person’s worth cannot be measured by their salary or position. We need to be accommodating and understanding across the board. The more we talk and communicate among groups, the better off we will be.
  + Ben – we must be sensitive to childcare emergencies. We know work must get done and must make sure it continues to get done. VPAR has seen more emergencies from students than faculty and staff. We need to make sure to accommodate these students. Link from Louisville: <https://louisville.edu/education/elc>
  + Andy – we looked at using our EDU students who are going to be teachers to man a center.. We asked Dept. of Education about students receiving credit. We cannot issue credit for a license (ours starts at pre-k) if the center was for younger children.
  + Trisha – let’s continue to offer flexibility with thoughtfulness, great communication and make sure faculty understand our students are first and that we are available to them – both informally and formally.
* TransferVA
  + Narda and team will be sending mapping information out to you and will need you to review and verify
  + The process is moving quickly and Narda feels good about it
* Trisha will let Narda know if she needs to do targeted emails for summer courses