Council of Chairs

September 23, 2020

Present: Brandy McCarroll, Bryan Hoyt, Andy Cox, Trisha Folds-Bennett, Michael McNulty, Amelia Harris, Jacob Somervell, Amy Clark, Robin Woodard, Tom Costa, Scott Bevins, Robin Benke, John Cull, Chancellor Henry, Huda Aden, Parthenon Team: Julia Howland Curley, Seth Reynolds, Kasia Lundy

1. Parthenon team presented their findings.
2. Chairs’ discussion on the team’s presentation:
3. Amy – frustrated when everyone is locked in to traditional ideas. She asked why we don’t consider more online learning to have more outreach. We have to look at what we need to do now.
4. Bryan – is there a way to survey local folks – adults in particular – who may be interested in taking classes on campus? Could we offer classes to accommodate those people?
5. Amelia – continuing ed classes were extremely successful years ago.
6. Trisha – declining population in this area would make that more difficult. Could we start with offering more night classes?
7. Brandy – RN-BSN online classes work. Online classes work and make sense for certain classes, but not all.
8. Scott – bottom line is that we are very inflexible, which was fine decades ago, but is not working now. We need to become more flexible.
9. Andy – one of most popular EDU programs is in collaboration with UVA. Do we have any sort of program where students start at UVA, but have to come to UVA Wise to finish?
10. Trisha - if we had a mix where we offered classes to UVA students that they don’t offer there, then we could get more of a balanced situation.
11. Amy – connection with UVA needs to be capitalized on.
12. Jacob – question is how much does that help us with a gain in enrollment?
13. Trisha – must factor in work it takes for these ideas. We need more than marginal growth.
14. Amy – we need to be accessible, people need graduate degrees
15. Tom – what is the most cost-effective strategy(ies) that we can adopt? We need to continue the technological things we’ve learned and have used from COVID (live streaming, etc.).
16. Trisha – feels like with COVID, in some cases we are just getting by. We set the bar for excellence and want to be able to deliver that.
17. Amelia – we have articulation agreement with community colleges where students just need foreign language
18. Brandy – one problem is that nursing students come in with an applied associate’s degree so they have to take more than foreign language
19. Trisha – we need to look at what’s working for peer institutions. Can we come up with something more creative? Most institutions are comparatively the same on many levels.
20. Quick updates:
21. Spring schedule planning - we are currently planning to do 16 week hybrid courses with no spring break.
22. Senior team recommended that we start on Jan. 19 instead of the 12. This will allow more time to get students tested before they return to campus and eliminates the extra week at the end of the semester.
23. We will still observe the holiday on Friday of what would have been spring break.
24. No spring break travel courses. Assuming travel will not come back online until summer at the earliest.
25. Snow days will remain as they’ve been. There are days built into the schedule for snow days.
26. Do we have funding for adjuncts teaching elective courses? Yes, but will have to select courses very carefully. Trisha is preparing an analysis for this budget for Sim. We will look at enrollments, necessary courses for degree completion. We need to consider appropriate class sizes. Trisha is waiting until we have data and then will do one-on-ones with everyone.
27. Robin asked if it is possible to restrict courses to those who can only be there in person.
28. Trisha isn’t quite sure how to answer, but doesn’t think we can do this. We need to come up with a very limited guideline on what constitutes a class that absolutely cannot be taught remotely.
29. Bryan asked about being notified when students have legitimate absences that have been documented. Need to check on process for absences and their accommodations. Nursing does their own because they have their own policy.
30. EDU is having issues with students attend classes virtually without going through the correct process with Whitney Wells. It ultimately is up to the professors to manage.
31. Trisha hopes to have conversations with some students to gauge their feelings on Block A. She also plans to do a survey.
32. ETF has been submitted and Liz Moore will send it forward on Friday.