Council of Chairs

March 31, 2020

Present: Tom Costa, Bryan Hoyt, Robin Woodard, Amy Clark, Jacob Somervell, Scott Bevins, Robin Benke, Amelia Harris, Andy Cox, Michael McNulty, Mark Clark, Cathie Collins, John Cull, Trisha Folds-Bennett

1. Announcements/Updates
2. Some students are concerned about their belongings in their rooms – they need to contact Josh Justice who is working with UVA to get these details lined out. Mark will make sure to pass that along once Josh updates him. They can get their textbooks mailed to them, but need to call Josh to do so.
3. Budget issues
4. Nothing new on the budget at this time.
5. News is still not good, we are in a budget deficit this year and next year.
6. We presented an unbalanced budget to Richmond, but must rectify this soon and present the adjusted budget.
7. Going back to OTPS and wage for FY20 unless you submitted in a lower amount in your ZBB. Whichever number is lower is the number they are going with.
8. We plan to have a more standardized process for the money we spend and where we spend from. Create deadlines for applying for different funding. We look at proposals for the money together and make the decisions (i.e. faculty travel).
9. Trisha wants this council to make decisions for spending together.
10. Trisha will send an email reiterating to not spend down your budget.
11. If you need to replace or purchase something, Mark will need to approve.
12. How does our enrollment look for the fall due to COVID-19?
13. We may have to meet online for a portion of the fall, but at this time it is uncertain. We cannot make that prediction now, but do need to plan in case. Students are still depositing. Even if we are online for a portion of next year.
14. Depending on where students are from, we may be able to have some limited in-person meetings, sessions, etc.
15. It does seem that enrollment will be affected by this. We will probably have to raise tuition. So many unknowns, it is hard to predict.
16. Will freshmen receive iPads this year? Scott, as far as we know, yes.
17. Summer classes? We will be online this summer. Amelia believes we will be able to have all the original planned classes, with two exceptions, one NAS class and one communications class – public speaking. Amelia will follow up with Summer II professors to gauge their capabilities.
18. Trisha and the Chancellor are meeting today to discuss if we will be following in line with UVA’s decision to not have any classes, programs, etc. on grounds through June 30.
19. FINS and summer stipends will still be awarded, but some may have to be postponed until later depending on their research.
20. Research Day will not happen, but the URC talked about doing a Blitz-like statement on Twitter or PPTs with voiceovers. They are working on things to do so the College community and prospective students can see what these students are doing. Nathan Rasnake volunteered to upload videos to twitter and/or posting abstracts on the website. Students will have the choice of videos on twitter, posting abstracts or not doing anything. Amelia will update as plans line out.
21. Grading standard
22. Any questions coming from students or faculty?
23. A form will be created to send to students the last week of class so they can request a grade or credit/no credit. The form will be submitted to the faculty member.
24. Officially the last day of class is when students will have to decide if they want to keep their grade or switch to credit/no credit, but there is flexibility. We want to be as generous with students as we can be.
25. Faculty know the students in their class and will work with each student to help them understand what the best course of action will be. Communication after the final and grades are posted will be ok unless we make firmer policies.
26. It’s a question of whether the students want the credits or want the GPA affected in some cases.
27. Remind faculty that this is a unique and difficult time and everyone is feeling the psychological impact of it. It will be important to have those conversations with faculty.
28. Share concerns you have about the impact on faculty and students as well.
29. Would it be possible to issue grades as normal, but give a window for students to submit a request to change from letter grade to credit/no credit?
30. Students should not make that decision right now. Advisors need to continue talking to them about this right down through the end. The communication will be critical for students.
31. Process of reporting students faculty are concerned about will be sent out. Narda is working on this.
32. Faculty need to reach out to students to make sure they have what they need and how they are doing.
33. We need to make sure our faculty have what they need as we navigate through this.
34. Concerns?
35. History & Philosophy: faculty are doing ok. One adjunct needed extra help, but has been caught up.
36. Social Sciences: no problems so far. Upper level students feel they have more time and may do better.
37. Math & Computer Sciences: nothing negative as of right now. One faculty member needed additional help with Zoom, etc., but was able to get caught up.
38. Education: is running smooth. A lot of creativity is being shown. Some of the challenges include it seems that we are checking emails all the time. He suggests having an on/off schedule. Students
39. Communication: only glitch is having students update presentations to Moodle, but they have been using Box and it is working.
40. Business & Economics: no problems so far. On an IT note, if you have a student that doesn’t have reliable resources for their needs, let Scott know. We do have additional loaner iPads available for part-time students and adjuncts. If you have troubles with apps or need a new app, let Scott know. If you need more memory in your email or more storage space in Box, email Scott.
41. Nursing: they have had to go to virtual clinicals. Their software (Shadowhelp) is not working very well on iPads. Could we get loaner laptops for students if needed? Seniors are good in terms of their clinical hours. It will take a little while for them to take their boards. They have purchased a virtual review to give their students. Faculty are concerned about what will happen after Cathie leaves.
42. Natural Sciences: feeling pretty good. Upper level students seem to be doing fine. More concerned with the younger students as they are not as responsive.
43. VPAR: feels they have had to compromise a lot. A lot of anxiety among students and faculty. They are doing the best they can, but it has been tough. Is concerned about the fall. We would probably have to cancel a large amount of classes. Mark and Trisha will discuss what it may look like if we are back on campus in the fall and what it would look like if we were online. It will require a lot of considerations and research to see what other universities are doing.
44. Mark wants to meet every Tuesday at 11.