**Council of Chairs**

**April 9, 2020**

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

1. Feedback from Chairs
2. Social Sciences
3. Positive results so far.
4. One question – what are we doing about student awards this semester? Something will be coming. We are open to suggestions – have a recognition ceremony in the fall. Invite seniors back.
5. If we do need to go online at the beginning of the fall semester, Social Sciences would prefer to stay online through December and not have to switch back to in person in the middle of the semester. There will be a task force to address this and look at what the best plan will be. Council of Chairs needs to decide who our representatives will be for this task force. It’s possible we will delay the beginning of the semester and have a compressed semester. Mark and Trisha will be sending out emails to ask who your area’s representative will be (not every department necessarily needs a representative).
6. Business and Econ
7. Positive results so far.
8. Some are having problems having synchronous classes.
9. IT
10. Susan has been talking and helping students with connection issues.
11. She is picking up equipment from UVA today for many of these students.
12. Should be in a better position for those issues in the fall and summer.
13. Mathematics and Computer Sciences
14. Things are going well.
15. Some people are a little frustrated not getting to see their students, but they are pushing through and making the best out of it.
16. It’s important to make sure our faculty feel appreciated.
17. Communications
18. Doing well.
19. Zooming quite frequently with their students.
20. Biggest challenge has been the capstone course, but Julia Weiss has been doing a tremendous job.
21. History and Philosophy
22. Everything is going pretty well.
23. Have had Narda check on a few students and it has been helpful.
24. Lang/Lit
25. Going well
26. Moving forward
27. Natural Sciences
28. Labs are a bit frustrating, but they are doing what they can.
29. Touching base frequently.
30. Nursing
31. Going well, but are nervous about the fall and clinicals.
32. Have found some software that has allowed them to do some clinical experiences online.
33. VPAR
34. Discussed the fall – a large number of classes would need to be cancelled if the entire semester was online. Considering other classes they could offer online.
35. Faculty are continuing to adjust.
36. If we are online in the fall for a portion or entire semester and you cannot offer certain courses– Trisha needs to know what impact on student progress to degree this would have.
37. Summer courses – Amelia is happy that faculty have been so open and helpful while working on having online courses this summer.
38. Faculty have appreciated hearing from administration and would like to hear even more.
39. Robin is in the Library every day and can send books out to students who need them, they need to let librarians know what materials they need.
40. Budget, etc.
41. Summer Courses
42. There is no real revenue from summer courses.
43. Trisha is working with Kathy Still and Genna Kasun on marketing for summer courses. Trisha will be sharing information with students often. The website is now live.
44. We must work hard to get students to enroll.
45. Genna has a plan we must use and can coordinate with Narda to target some students who may have interest in specific classes.
46. They will coordinate with Chris Dearth to get the word out to new students as well as many of them might like to get ahead in their general ed.
47. Student athletes- Kendall will encourage student athletes to enroll in summer courses, specifically football (Trisha will talk to football coach).
48. For future consideration: If we increase the minimum enrollment, we will need to reward faculty that have very robust enrollments. We should consider an addition to their stipend if they have over a certain number of students. This is something we need to decide if the investment would be worth it.
	1. Have to consider lab seating caps.
	2. Chairs will have to think about how they rotate faculty teaching in summer. Must be careful about creating competition.
	3. Needs to come from administration, not individual departments.
49. Highlights from Parthenon Group
50. National consulting group and have been working with UVA. Very renowned. Funded by UVA.
51. Their goal is help us understand our region, clients, student population
52. They are looking at our core values, mission of public liberal arts college, how we compare to peers, our region, job opportunities, statewide opportunities, our budget model, higher ed landscape and potential in terms of recruitment
53. Their assessment was not surprising. If we continue using our current recruitment and budgeting models, then our enrollments will plummet. We are not on a sustainable trajectory. They do think there are a number of strategic initiatives we have started (marketing, recruitment) that could have a positive impact.
54. They will help us consider what investments would be good and risks associated with different models.
55. We need to contextualize our liberal arts model.
56. They wil have suggestions on budget model.
57. They have just completed their first phase with us and will begin their second now.
58. Those on strategic planning committee will be looking at those as a counsel. Looking from ground up.
59. Will use their suggestions to inform our budget planning.
60. Good news
61. This year’s budget is looking ok now.
62. State has not decided whether or not they release ETF funds, which means what we have spent will come from our bottom line.
63. Jacob is hopeful that their accreditation won’t be affected by our current situation. Trisha said she believes the agencies are still deciding what they are going to do. Cathie said they are due for a visit from their agency in Feb. 2021 and thinks things will get pushed back. Their agency is talking about using data prior to this semester and not using this semester’s data in their decision making.
64. Budget for next year
65. Senior Staff are still working on it.
66. There is a hiring freeze across the board. We can request exceptions to this. Trisha will work with Michael and Jacob as to whether or not they go ahead and interview.
67. They believe there will be a significant budget cut in addition to what we’ve seen. We must plan accordingly.
68. Remaining questions/items
69. Should our faculty go ahead and plan to be online in the fall? If it is helpful, then go ahead and start getting the infrastructure in place.
70. We want to put together a group of faculty to look at the Year in Wise for UVA deferred students.
71. We encourage you to be involved with retention and recruitment. Please urge your faculty to reach out to their advisees and have their advisees register for fall classes. Scott can pull a list of students who have not yet registered for fall (including contact information) and disseminate among departments. Be proactive and more assertive about this. If your students have needs, appeal to appropriate resources to intervene.