

Council of Chairs
Oct. 28, 2014

Present: Tom Costa, Amy Clark, Sandy Huguenin, Robin Benke, David Kendall, Alex Edwards, David Klocek, Amelia Harris, Margie Tucker, Bryan Hoyt, Cathie Collins, Jeff Cantrell

Absent: Suzanne Adams-Ramsey, John Mark Adrian

Tom Costa reported on the QEP. He gave a report to the UVa-Wise Board on Oct. 17 and received their endorsement. A copy of the full report is available in the QEP Box and on the Academic Affairs web page at <https://www.uvawise.edu/academicaffairs/councilofchairs> . The plan, which is still under development, will emphasize writing – in general and within the disciplines. The committee hopes faculty will include a writing component in introductory courses in the majors. Writing exercises will be developed and shared. Mr. Costa said the committee would like to see writing-intensive courses developed as an entry to majors, as a transition from the composition courses to higher level writing. Composition instructors would provide guidance on how to build on skills taught in those courses. Workshops would be offered each year department-by-department for faculty who wish to teach more writing in their courses. Long-term plans include hiring a program director to oversee the writing QEP. The Writing Center will be enhanced and made more visible. The committee wishes to solicit writing samples from each department to provide a baseline against which to measure the progress of the plan.

Mr. Huguenin reported on Summer College 2014. Of the 91 sections offered, 18 had fewer than five students enrolled; no classes were canceled due to low enrollment. In summer 2015 we plan to offer the core that was developed last year, and each department may add one other course. It is expected that about a dozen fewer courses will be offered. The draft of the 2014 Summer College schedule is due Friday, Nov. 7.

A committee has been appointed to study the Freshman Seminar and offer suggestions for a pilot program. It is anticipated that 19 faculty will be needed to teach the seminar.