

Council of Chairs
Sept. 1, 2015

Present: Tom Costa, Robin Benke, Bryan Hoyt, Margie Tucker, Don Sharitt, Bob Bragg, Frank Frey, David Klocek, Jeff Cantrell, Amelia Harris, Sandy Huguenin, Rachel Tighe, Cathy Collins

Absent: Jacob Somervell, Michael McNulty

Bob Bragg and Don Sharitt spoke to the group about the College's next capital campaign and how they could provide input. The campaign's silent phase will begin next year as we prepare our list of needs; the public announcement will come in 2017 and will coincide with the University of Virginia's bicentennial. The department chairs are asked to meet with their faculty and ask "what would make our department better in ten years?" Produce a wish list and prioritize needs. The campaign will focus on four areas: student support (i.e. scholarships); faculty support (endowed professorships, research support); engagement (internships, study abroad, undergraduate research, community collaboratives); and capital (labs, equipment study space). Sharitt will schedule meetings with each department in early November. He encouraged them to dream big; to list five or ten items and include the monetary values. If something is to be endowed, multiply the cost times 20. A review of *Envisioning 2020* and the *Development Portfolio* will help prepare for this discussion. These lists will be used when visiting potential donors. Asked if programs such as Healthy Appalachia Institute Fellows, the Medieval-Renaissance Conference and the Center for Appalachian Studies could be endowed, Bragg replied yes. Economic development is a top priority of the chancellor's and the College would like to see more students engaged with the community. How could this focus be tied to existing or new programs?

Bragg announced the new weekly electronic newsletter produced by College Relations and encouraged everyone to send news items to Kathy Still.

The discussion turned to health care and the increased cost of the College's new health insurance plan. Of particular concern is the out-of-pocket expense to those employees on the lower end of the pay scale. Several faculty said they would like to see a fund endowed to help employees with these costs. Bragg said he would craft a proposal to set up a fund to accept donations.

Huguenin said Friday is the deadline for the response to the SACS report; it's possible they could ask for further clarification. A list has been made of items missing from faculty personnel files and will be shared with department chairs next week. Harris stressed the importance of the Faculty Handbook's criteria for teaching when writing evaluations. Administrative and Professional Faculty who teach should be evaluated every other year. Asked about the results of the department chair evaluations, Huguenin replied they would be sent out soon.

Harris discussed a new form developed to declare a minor, recently emailed to department chairs. She said many faculty would like to recruit students for minors and this should make the process simpler. The form is electronic; when submitted it goes to the registrar and to the chair of the department housing the minor; the chair will assign an advisor.

Frey said a proposed change in the tenure and promotion policy will be reviewed by the Faculty Senate tomorrow. The change refers to a request from a faculty member for early tenure and/or promotion and says that such a request must be accompanied in writing by the reason for the early request. The Senate will allow a 30-day period for comments.