

Council of Chairs  
Sept. 3, 2013

Present: Suzanne Adams-Ramsey, Josh Justice, Marshell Bradley, Rachel Tighe, Bryan Hoyt, Alex Edwards, Shannon Blevins, Robin Benke, Sandy Huguenin, Amelia Harris, Andy Cox (for Jeff Cantrell), Tom Costa, Margie Tucker, David Kendall, Cathie Collins

Absent: John Adrian

Shannon Blevins discussed the Appalachian Prosperity Project which includes health care, education and economic development. She distributed copies of the *Blueprint for Entrepreneurial Growth and Economic Prosperity in Southwest Virginia*. A student organization formed last year to foster entrepreneurship has 15 members. The group sponsored a lecture last fall by Cameron Johnson. Of 16 students competing in a regional entrepreneurship challenge, three are UVA-Wise students. The top prize is \$10,000 in start-up money for a business.

Ms. Blevins would like to develop a pool of faculty interested in consulting with area businesses. This could be a one-time event or a longer project. She gave two examples: a Chinese group visiting the area needed an interpreter; and faculty member Abrar Qureshi spent about a month developing a training program for CGI. George Mason and the University of Mary Washington are models that Ms. Blevins would like to follow in creating a profile of interested faculty and their areas of expertise. Faculty would be compensated for their participation. Ms. Blevins will develop a skeleton plan and reach out to departments for input.

Marshell Bradley introduced the program PASS (Peer Assisted Study Sessions) sponsored by Academic Support and asked that faculty promote it in their classes. PASS is available in MTH 1110, MTH 1210 and CHM 1010. Trained tutors will attend these classes, take notes and hold study sessions for students who wish to have assistance. Ms. Bradley noted the last day to request a tutor for this semester is Oct. 18.

Josh Justice discussed changes in the Office of Housing and Residence Life. Mr. Justice is the new director of residence life; Angie Lemke and Chris Owens left during the summer. A search is underway for a new community coordinator. A goal for this year is to get faculty involved in residence life programs, to engage students in learning outside the classroom. Most residence halls have study spaces and classrooms; faculty may schedule these spaces with the housing office. Theme housing will be expanded next year; this year music students and ROTC cadets each have dedicated space. Housing occupancy is 82 percent for this semester. The townhouses are being renovated and will be unoccupied this year.

Mr. Huguenin asked that departments send him their suggestions for summer classes by Monday, Sept. 9. The summer schedule will be ready by Oct. 1. Faculty should remember to include courses their majors need that are housed in other departments. It is not clear how teaching in the summer will be counted in an adjunct's workload; Mr. Huguenin is looking into that.