President’s Advisory Council
DRAFT MINUTES
December 20, 2018
1PM in Trustees Pavilion
www.ramapo.edu/president/pac


Guests: A. Vasishth

I. Approval of April 2018 Minutes

President Mercer introduced the minutes. E. Petkus moved and C. Romano seconded their approval. The minutes were approved.

II. President’s Report

President Mercer described the 120-Credit legislation noting that Ramapo, the College of New Jersey, and Richard Stockton University, were recently advised that they are not required to meet the mandate. President Mercer also described the reverse transfer legislation noting that Ramapo’s first Reverse Transfer Agreement has been established with Bergen Community College.

President Mercer advised of some of the emergent themes of the State’s Strategic Plan for Higher Education. He shared that Ramapo has provided feedback on the draft plan encouraging the inclusion of additional indicators related to competitive grant awards, student loan default rates, EOF graduation/retention rates, state investment per FTE, and internship and cooperative education rates. He noted that the emergent plan as well as the Governor’s proposed budget seem to be heavily focused on the delivery of vocational skills and workforce training. The draft Plan is expected to be circulated by the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education in the New Year.

President Mercer added that Ramapo's role in supporting the State’s economic development plan and remaining competitive will rely on continued strong student advisement, retention, and graduation rate successes, as well as on strategic growth in our adult and online programs, and increasingly nimble delivery of our curriculum. Demand for a Ramapo education remains strong, the President said, adding that applications are 9.7% ahead this year and 25% ahead for out of state applicants.

III. Review of Membership & Terms
   a. (VACANT) Graduate Student at Large
b. Since 2014, the membership of PAC has changed slightly. These changes, with the exception of adding a seat for a DAC representative and for a Commuter Student Representative, have occurred somewhat organically. Members have rotated off of PAC and their replacements have been identified through their respective representative bodies.

Kindly review the membership listing and advise, if you joined PAC in 2014 or 2015, if you plan to continue service or if you will be advancing a different representative for the coming academic year.

B. Goldstein noted the addition of new PAC members and encouraged members to communicate any changes in PAC membership to her.

IV. Using PAC to Advance the Recommendations of the Shared Governance Task Force (B. Goldstein, S. Lally, A. Vasishth)

The rest of the meeting was devoted to a presentation by Brittany Williams-Goldstein (Chief of Staff), Stephan Lally (SGA President) and Ashwani Vasishth (Associate Professor). The three presenters were members of the SGTF (Shared Governance Task Force) and discussed how PAC could be used to advance the 13 recommendations of the 2017 SGTF Report.

Models were presented for decision making which were either Hierarchical Leadership (bureaucratic & corporate) or Distributed Leadership (collegial & enterprise). Understanding that hierarchical leadership would be needed at times for fast decisions, the group noted that the goal is to move toward a structure that advances shared governance.

To this end, the presenters organized the 13 recommendations into three categories (collaboration, communication, and continuous improvement) and demonstrated how PAC is well-suited to be the vehicle that implements the recommendations. They noted that collaboration aligns to the PAC principle of mutual respect, communication aligns to the PAC principle of information sharing, and continuous improvement aligns to the PAC principle of learning. They also noted that, in order for the recommendations to be implemented and assessed in a meaningful way, advancing them should not be the responsibility of one unit or individual. Rather, using the PAC, which is already uniquely comprised of stakeholders from across campus, to implement and assess the recommendations, reflects the ethos of the SGTF Report and should foster greater engagement in shared governance throughout the College.

Discussion ensued regarding the restructuring of PAC into possible subcommittees to address the recommendations and to refine the PAC’s purpose statement to explicitly state its responsibility to steward the SGTF Report recommendations.
C. Davey motioned and A. Lorenz seconded to revise the PAC purpose statement to include the advancement, implementation, and sustainability of the recommendations of the Task Force on Shared Governance. The motion passed with unanimous support.

V. PAC ‘18-19 Meeting Calendar
   a. Next meeting: February 21, 2019 at 1PM; April Meeting: TBA

Some PAC members expressed concerns about their availability on February 21. Noting the concerns and the likely addition of new members, Chief Goldstein indicated she would poll the group again for their availability.

VI. New Business

There was no new business.