

MINUTES

Ramapo College Board of Trustees

Deans' Council

Deans' Council

Thursday, October 17, 2019, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

AC 202

A. Approval of Minutes

Becker

The minutes from the October 3 meeting were approved.

B. Development of a fair and sustainable framework for stipend and reassign time allocations

Becker

Janet Faber joined at 9am.

S. Becker provided a brief overview of the reasons why faculty currently receive reassign time and stipends. J. Faber provided further details on the number of reassigned credits and amount of stipends, not including overload. S. Becker shared the history, and suggested this is the time to evaluate the assignments and find a more fair and equitable way to distribute the assignments. He also noted that faculty are expected to contribute to the College through teaching, service, and scholarship, and that establishing a baseline for expectations in service would be helpful in many ways. E. Saiff shared that there had been a past task force directed to address issues related to faculty service. S. Hangen added that none of the recommendations from the task force were moved forward.

The Deans determined it would be prudent to review all stipends and reassign time for their schools/units, and the overall record. J. Faber will provide this information and a follow-up meeting will be scheduled with V. Galdieri and J. Faber.

C. Academic Masterplan

Becker

S. Becker revisited the academic masterplan; the overarching theme is interdisciplinarity. He emphasized that establishing broad areas and purposefully developing them will help raise the profile of the College. Initial areas proposed were health (encompassing programs as nursing, social work, and healthcare administration) and data (encompassing programs such as computer and data science and digital humanities).

E. Petkus noted that the broad areas must resonate with those outside of the College for it to be truly effective, and that themes should develop organically. P. Campbell inquired if certain programs are already at capacity, such as nursing, what the purpose would be to further promote it; further, having the College be recognized for health would not convince a student to apply/enroll in the English program. He inquired instead if new programs could be marketed. A. Lorenz added that undergraduate research is a hallmark of all programs.

C. Romano offered information based on surveys. Most students choose their institution first and their major second. He also noted that it is very difficult to be known for the liberal arts, and that having areas of renown is not necessarily how brand building is done. The important piece is to increase market share and increase the number of new applications.

E. Petkus inquired if the plan could be tailored around innovation. The plan could also aim for undergraduate growth. S. Hangen suggested the plan take into account curricular innovations within programs and schools. S. Gaulden noted many institutions have fewer programs but more tracks. This can decrease the internal competition of majors. She offered to review the program and make observations.

D. Faculty Research Series

Gaulden

S. Gaulden inquired if the Deans had feedback on the Faculty Research Series thus far. Suggestions were offered to continue the program, and offer the opportunity to FDF recipients or even all faculty. S. Gaulden and S. Becker will discuss.

E. ARC support

Gaulden

It was suggested that ARC could be streamlined by eliminating syllabus review and instead limiting that review to the Deans and the unit representative. S. Becker will inquire at his next meeting with the ARC Chair.

F. NYU Faculty Resource Network update

Becker

S. Becker shared that Dr. Samuel Rosenberg has stepped down as the College's faculty liaison to the NYU Faculty Resource Network. Dr. Angela Cristini will be assuming the role. A message will be shared with faculty.

G. New Business

Presidential Search Representative: P. Campbell nominated A. Lorenz to serve as the Deans' Council representative on the Presidential Search committee. S. Gaulden seconded. All were in favor.