

MINUTES

Ramapo College Board of Trustees

Deans' Council

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Thursday, November 21, 2019, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

AC 202

A. Approval of Minutes

Becker

Minutes from the November 7 meeting were approved.

B. Academic Masterplan

Becker

S. Becker requested the Deans review the plan and continue to add in ideas.

A. Lorenz inquired if SUST could be inactivated rather than terminated, so it is not removed from the College's offerings on the state listings. S. Gaulden responded it is possible.

C. Online course fees

Becker

S. Becker revisited the question about course fees for online courses that was previously discussed at Graduate Council. Should fully online courses have an online course fee as opposed to a lab fee? There was discussion about what a specifically online course fee would be used for: software costs, online help desks, and the Canvas LMS were all raised.

D. Couzens will request a complete list of all courses with course fees and share with the Deans.

D. Online and hybrid course designations

Gaulden

S. Gaulden noted there are discrepancies in the course schedule in terms of online and hybrid course designations. Some courses designated as such are not. This is in part due to a rollover issue.

S. Gaulden has been working on a pilot study to estimate number of hours required for a course. She will share the results with the Deans once complete.

S. Hangen inquired if a workshop could be offered for hybrid courses. S. Gaulden agreed it was a good idea, and may follow up with FRC/IDC.

E. Faculty-student research: credit model

Hangen

S. Hangen introduced the idea of alternative methods to engage students in faculty-student research outside of the hourly wage model, which some schools use. P. Campbell noted that the rationale for the hourly wage model is that Ramapo does not have GAs/TAs, therefore students are paid to work on faculty-generated research. CA, HGS, and SSHS compensate students with hourly wages and/or travel support for conferences. ASB has research assistants that are compensated. E. Saiff added TAS students enroll in TAS Research Honors or Independent Study and receive credit, counting towards a free elective. Students in TAS Research Honors conduct their own research. Faculty are not compensated for TAS Research Honors.

F. Reminder: Scholarship Statement

Becker

Please review the statement and supply benchmarks by 12/20/19.

S. Becker revisited the topic of the Scholarship Statement. E. Petkus asked if the Deans are being asked to provide specific examples; L. Keller inquired how this would be used in the promotion process. S. Becker clarified that the handbook and contract do not define "excellence," and that there are no guidelines/expectations for the All-College committees to measure performance within "excellence;" the Statement would be an interpretation of the contract. E. Saiff expressed concern the Statement may be viewed as a new set of guidelines for promotion. P Campbell noted the Statement would not change contract procedures and it would be helpful to those who are unfamiliar with what scholarship looks like in certain fields; there are many organizations that have put out such examples in the arts. E. Petkus also noted ASB has a school-wide policy on tenure that aligns with AACSB requirements.

P. Campbell suggested the document be revised with more explicit reference to the handbook. S. Gaulden shared other institutions also have statements that define Service and Teaching, and also recommended referencing those Ramapo faculty who have been promoted to identify examples of excellent scholarship.

S. Becker encouraged the Deans to discuss the Scholarship Statement with the conveners and define concrete examples of what excellence scholarship looks like in their field. It will be an ongoing discussion.

G. Reminder: Thomases' Award

Clare Naporano will be reaching out soon for nominations.

D. Couzens shared that C. Naporano will soon reach out to the Deans for Thomases' Award nominations.

E. Petkus also reminded the Deans that the Foundation has reached out for nominations for the Jack Richardson Memorial Award.

H. New Business

Student incident: The Council discussed a recent student incident.