

MINUTES

Ramapo College Board of Trustees

Deans' Council

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Thursday, November 7, 2019, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

AC 202

A. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the October 17 meeting were approved.

B. Counting major-required courses as GE

Gaulden

S. Gaulden introduced the topic by noting that not all faculty are considering the new Gen Ed when proposing or modifying programs. If students need to take specific courses for the major that are in the GE, the courses must be included in the major requirements. Programs cannot specify particular courses to count for fulfilling the GE. Further, some students are not ready to take the major-required GE courses so there may be hidden prerequisites.

There are two implications:

1. The GE cannot be tailored to the major. While this used to be allowable in the old GE, the new GE does not allow it.
2. Majors are requiring more than the maximum number of credits allowed. S. Gaulden noted that the College cannot have degrees that require more than 128 credits total.

S. Gaulden will supply a list of programs that are encountering one or both of the issues, and help the Deans make the faculty aware.

C. Discussion on equitable allocation of stipend and reassign time

Becker

Virginia Galdieri joined at 9:30am.

The Council discussed the distribution of stipends and reassign time. A recommendation was made to review by school and by type; for instance, some responsibilities are teaching responsibilities while others are College service. It was noted that the record-keeping should reflect whether the positions are recurring or one-year roles. The Deans will meet with S. Becker and V. Galdieri regarding their school.

D. Peer evaluation of online courses

Gaulden

S. Gaulden inquired if there was a structure to observe online teaching. The Deans clarified that faculty are observed in their in-class teaching. Online learning is still assessed.

P. Campbell differentiated between assessing the online course and assessing the professor. Peer observations are not used for course or program assessment; S. Becker added that peer observations can contain observations on the teaching or course elements. P. Campbell inquired if the peer observation should then be done by the Dean or IDC.

E. Petkus suggested that for faculty going up for promotion, their convener could be granted access to the online course for a period of time to complete a peer teaching observation. E. Saiff added that the nursing faculty "visit" online courses for one week or one module.

S. Gaulden will obtain a list of all Fall 2019 courses that ran in multiple modes of delivery. She has also asked faculty teaching online to complete a course load estimator calculator.

E. Overview of Ramapo 2030: Vision & Priorities

Becker

S. Becker shared a draft visioning document that looks beyond Ramapo's reaccreditation. It contains three goals:

1. sustainable student enrollment
2. campus community
3. increasing non-enrollment revenue

E. Petkus inquired of the relationship between this visioning and the organizational change discussions. C. Romano also noted these ideas will not cross purposes to the current strategic plan, and that the priorities need to be consistent across campus. P. Campbell shared he saw this from the Academic Affairs perspective as related to organizational change.

The Council discussed the organizational change meetings. C. Romano shared it is designed as a decision-making body to identify and agree on unified priorities in the current climate. S. Gaulden followed by reading memo which established the organizational change meetings.

F. New Business

President's Advisory Council: The Deans briefly recapped the PAC meeting and the topic of shared governance.

3+1 programs: The Council determined that more consistent communication would benefit the implementation of the 3+1 programs. The Provost's Office will create materials and distribute when ready.