

MINUTES

Ramapo College Board of Trustees

Deans' Council

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Thursday, April 1, 2021, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Webex

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 18 meeting were approved.

B. Faculty Technology Needs Working Group

S. Gaulden noted that several faculty have provided feedback about the room kits. While they are useful to many, others have found that they are not the ideal solution to teaching both virtual and in-person students. For example, sometimes virtual students cannot see what is being written on the whiteboard. S. Gaulden is forming a Fall 2021 Technology Needs Committee that will have 1-2 representatives per School to work with ITS and the Provost's Office on solutions.

E. Petkus noted that the greatest concern is the need to deliver content in an equal way to virtual and in-person students. E. Saiff also requested the group consider ways to prevent cheating; Respondus has pros and cons. S. Hangen inquired if the TLTR Committee will be involved.

In addition to this new committee, IDC workshops will now focus on-campus teaching and using the technologies in the classroom to accommodate virtual and in-person learners.

C. Academic Program Reviews External Reports

S. Gaulden noted that many of the external reviewers' reports for the five-year academic program reviews are a joint, collaborative report. She inquired if a joint report, or individual reports, is preferred.

A. Lorenz preferred a joint report to eliminate the overlap between the two, in addition to encouraging discussion among the two reviewers. S. Hangen agreed the reviewers should discuss but noted the value in individual reports - particularly if the reviewers do not agree in a certain area. E. Saiff added that a joint report could contain differing opinions. S. Gaulden inquired how the Deans had submitted external reports for other institutions they have reviewed; most agreed they submitted collaborative reports when there were other reviewers. Based on the discussion, the contract language will be updated to reflect a collaborative report.

S. Gaulden noted that each program review should have two reviewers, and one should have administrative experience to examine the program within the larger context of the institution.

D. Proposed AIC Regulations

In February 2020, a bill was proposed to the State Senate which included a proposal to revise the AIC regulations. In March 2021 the bill was approved. A working group is now drafting changes to the AIC regulations. S. Gaulden shared some highlights of the initial draft from the working group, which includes categories of academic quality, labor market demand, duplication, and state resources. The Council discussed. In addition, she noted that if institutions wish to establish branch campuses, they must provide evidence that the proportion of courses taught by full-time faculty at the branch location is in line with that of the main campus, among other updates

for branch campuses.

The new AIC regulations will take effect in August 2021. More information will be shared once the final guidelines are received.

E. Opportunity Meets Innovation Challenge Grant

S. Gaulden provided a summary of the College's submission to the Opportunity Meets Innovation Challenge grant. She requested data; D. Couzens will contact Cahill for some of the information.

F. Upcoming Events

Scholars' Week: April 12-16, 2021

Honors Symposium: April 21, 2021

Academic Achievement Ceremony, Nurses Pinning, & Rites of Passage: May 12, 2021

The Council reviewed the upcoming events.

Regarding the Academic Achievement Ceremony, the consensus was to allow students to bring guests.

Faculty will not be required to wear regalia if they attend the ceremony.

G. New Business

Fall 21 schedule: The Deans discussed the schedule and delivery modes.

Increasing on-campus presence: With Fall registration opening on April 12, S. Gaulden noted that student-facing offices in Academic Affairs will begin increasing their campus presence in the Arch/Roadrunner model. An announcement will be sent to the Deans and managers. There are a few exceptions for those that can continue working remotely. C. Romano will look into the Coach bus schedule for those commuting from the city.

Student Affairs update: C. Romano provided an update on various programs and events. There will be a town hall for accepted student parents, hosted by him, S. Gaulden, J. Connell, and M. Van Der Wall. CSI is hosting two in-person programs a week. Seven sports are active. Over 60% of incoming freshman have indicated they wish to live on campus.