

MINUTES

Ramapo College Board of Trustees

Deans' Council

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Friday, May 21, 2021, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Webex

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 15 meeting were approved.

B. Student Vaccination Requirement

The Council discussed the details of the COVID vaccination requirement for students who will be on campus. C. Romano shared that historically, approximately 10-12 students each year receive medical or religious exemptions to the existing vaccination requirements. Most other NJ colleges are requiring the COVID vaccine for the Fall 21 semester. C. Romano added that the College has created a dedicated webpage with FAQs and an email address specifically for the COVID vaccination requirement.

S. Gaulden shared a summary of a recent Chronicle webinar for colleges requiring vaccination.

At this time, faculty and staff are not required by the College to present vaccination records.

A question was raised whether faculty will need to accommodate students who choose to continue learning remotely. S. Gaulden responded that as of now, Executive Order 155 is still in effect. Faculty cannot request any evidence or proof but must continue to accommodate remote learners wherever possible. She added that the OSHE Restart Standards from August 2020 are also still in effect. A discussed ensued.

C. Insurance Coverage (professional liability) for students - cohorts to be identified

Students will be able to secure health insurance through the College's consortium agreement with Aetna. Graduate and undergraduate students will be in the same pool and the cost is the same.

Through the consortium, the College can add liability insurance for students that are in clinicals, field placements, co-ops, internships, etc. E. Petkus inquired if the insurance was necessary. C. O'Keefe will provide the various categories of insurance coverage, and S. Gaulden will share with the Deans to determine whether or not student cohorts should be added.

A. Lorenz noted that several SSHS classes have liability fees for which students are already paying.

D. Purchasing

There was a general discussion on purchasing and procurement. S. Gaulden will reach out to K. Loewrigkeit.

E. Course & Lab Fees Review

S. Gaulden shared the review of course fees that she conducted while at Essex to compare their fees to other county college fees and to see if fees are truly covering expenses. P. Campbell

noted only specific expenses are meant to be covered by course and lab fees. S. Gaulden agreed, and added it can be challenging to trace those expenses. E. Petkus agreed. E. Saiff shared that the TAS lab staff manage the lab fee funds, and that it is shared amongst all labs.

D. Couzens noted that delivery mode has impacted course and lab fees in pandemic-impacted semesters but that may influence enrollment if there are different charges by section. P. Campbell agreed. E. Saiff responded that students taking a course virtually or online have different usages.

F. Faculty Service Positions

S. Gaulden shared the letters for faculty receiving stipends and/or reassign time for service are being prepared. She asked for feedback about requesting annual reports. P. Campbell thought it would be helpful and suggested providing a template report; S. Hangen agreed. S. Gaulden will consider creating a template.

S. Gaulden raised the idea of transition planning. The Deans discussed their perspectives and potential timelines.

In the future, a listing of such positions may be available on the intranet.

G. Graduate School Advisement

Following up on the previous topic, S. Gaulden noted that the Director of Fellowships, Scholarships, and Graduate Advisement will be known as the Director of Fellowships and Scholarships. Graduate school advisement should not necessarily belong with one individual.

A. Lorenz shared the history of the Office: when he was in the role, Cahill provided GRE data to A. Lorenz and he would speak with students about graduate testing requirements. C. Romano added that Cahill has since been reorganized with school liaisons. Graduate school conversations often begin through the Pathways program. P. Campbell noted that eight COMM students were accepted for graduate programs in the Fall, and that Pathways is working very well.

H. New Business

CARES Act: S. Gaulden shared that the most recent round of CARES Act funding was automatically distributed to students.