

# MINUTES

## Ramapo College Board of Trustees

### Deans' Council

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Thursday, October 7, 2021, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

ASB 230

#### A. Approval of Minutes

#### B. Connect Data

J. Teigen joined the meeting.

C. Romano provided a brief history on Connect's rollout.

J. Teigen conveyed that the role of Connect in advising has grown, and that Connect is continually reviewed. The data being presented to the Deans will be shared at upcoming Unit Council meetings as well with the Connect Advisory Board unit representatives.

J. Teigen noted that the mechanism for data collection between Banner and Connect has been improved. All full-time and adjunct faculty receive a progress report survey for their students during the semester. 76% of faculty complete this survey. S. Gaulden will include a reminder about the progress reports in an upcoming Provost's announcement.

C. Romano noted that for each negative flag that is raised, there is a correlation to a .22 decrease in GPA. After three flags are raised, the faculty advisor is alerted. The flags have been developed and refined with faculty input, and trigger other actions as well. For instance, if attendance flags are raised, Residence Life staff check on the student in their room. In addition to negative flags, the positive kudos flag is used and helps to widen the data.

J. Teigen reviewed the data with the Deans. E. Petkus inquired if the flags are valid indicators of lower GPA and retention. J. Teigen responded that 13-15% of students are not retained between the first and second year. C. Romano added that the incoming cohorts are, generally, considered "higher risk" and therefore *maintaining* that retention rate is an indication of success.

J. Teigen and C. Romano both reiterated that using flags in Connect are predictors of student success.

There was a general discussion regarding undeclared students and their academic success. S. Gaulden noted that Pathways is not completed until students declare a major, and it may be helpful to consider starting the first module of Pathways sooner. S. Hangen noted that many liberal arts colleges do not emphasize major declaration until the second year; Ramapo may be unique. E. Petkus added that more outreach and structure for students who have not declared a school may be beneficial. J. Teigen can pull out the undeclared students in the Connect data.

#### C. Faculty Searches

S. Gaulden shared that the tenure-track faculty positions have been approved and posted. A draft MOA for lecturer positions is in the works, and will be reviewed by M. Tripodi and V. Galdieri prior to entering negotiations with the local AFT.

#### **D. 5-Year Program Review as an Assessment Activity**

There are a number of programs in the process of conducting their 5-year academic program reviews. S. Gaulden noted that during the year that the review is done, the convening group can waive their other assessment requirements. Some reviews may overlap between two academic years; only one year of SLO assessment can be waived.

E. Saiff noted that the SLO assessment is on a three-year cycle. Waiving it would require the cycle be adjusted. S. Gaulden clarified it is an option to waive it, but it is not required. The convening groups would simply pause that assessment during the program review. This has been discussed with M. Unger as a way to lessen the assessment burden.

C. Romano inquired if he could receive a copy of the program review schedule as many programs request enrollment data. D. Couzens will share an updated schedule.

#### **E. Accolades Page**

<https://www.ramapo.edu/about/accolades/>

C. Romano has worked with Marketing & Communications to develop one location on the website for the College's accolades, such as its rankings in various publications and lists. S. Gaulden noted that faculty and staff can be directed to use this page as a resource.

#### **F. Upcoming Events**

*Presidential Speaker Series:* Mr. Alex Gorsky, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Johnson & Johnson, will be on campus as part of the Presidential Speaker Series on 10/22. The Fireside Chat at 12pm will be open to faculty, students, and staff on campus.

#### **G. New Business**

*Spring 22 schedule:* There was a general discussion about the use of the app and creating the schedule. P. Campbell shared the timeline to create the schedule is very compressed; E. Petkus agreed. P. Campbell added it would be better to develop the schedule for an entire academic year at once; in the past, this was started in January for the following Fall and Spring. S. Gaulden will invite the Registrar and S. Frees to an upcoming meeting to discuss. The Spring 22 schedule will go live to students on 10/14.

#### **H. RCNJ Needs Assessment**

A. Cristini and Academic Affairs managers and staff joined the meeting.

A. Cristini shared the College's former model of fundraising, and indicated that the model is being updated in a way that will shift the culture and practice. There is a desire to involve the Deans, faculty, and staff in the solicitation process. In addition, there is opportunity to widen and deepen the College's reputation.

To that end, IA is working with the President to develop a Needs Assessment. Through this process, priority needs will be identified and IA will work with the program/project leads to go out and work to cultivate donors, foundations, and grants that align with the goals. A. Cristini spoke about establishing "centers for excellence" that work to educate students, conduct research, and advise and create policy. For example, the TCNJ Center for Transportation has built a reputation that advises policy at the state level. The centers would involve collaboration across the schools and divisions.

S. Gaulden clarified that the Needs Assessment is not replacing SPIF or capital funding. It is not meant for physical upgrades, or for developing new academic programs. A. Cristini clarified that the assessment is not requesting College funding; rather, it is seeking external resources.

L. Campbell inquired what IA imagined when thinking of donors. A. Cristini responded that could be individuals, grants, foundations, or corporate sponsors. Also, the initiatives/centers do not need to be new; they could be already in existence in the College and need a re-invigoration. S. Gaulden advised that not every proposal would be able to be pursued, and it will depend on the interest from the external donors. However, it is not a requirement for a center/initiative to produce revenue. A. Cristini also added that donors often want to provide seed money, and it would be up to the initiative's leadership to ensure it is sustainable. The idea is that there will be the potential to continually gain funding and influence policy, or influence enrollment.

A. Cristini outlined the timeline.

From now until November, she is meeting with various divisions and groups on campus to explain the process.

From November through January 2022, groups will develop their priority needs proposal according to the format that will be published on the website. The proposal will need to address its goals, measurable objectives, outcomes, budget, and kinds of resources. Not all proposals should require a building, however, proposals can request the reallocation of existing space. At that stage, proposals will be brought to the Deans or manager. Finally in the Spring (likely March), the Provost will bring the proposals to Cabinet and the President. The President will decide which ones should take the next step. IA will work with the President and the center/initiative's leadership to begin developing and soliciting for the center.

The overall feedback was positive; S. Hangen noted this procedure was exciting and a way to empower good ideas. A. Lorenz agreed. G. Khaneja inquired if IR would continue to be a support system; A. Cristini confirmed that IR would be the source for data. V. Vicari offered the SBDC as a means to introduce external populations to the academic community and can be leveraged in the process. B. Levy added that International Education can also bring in a global aspect. A. Cristini confirmed IA would assist with creating budgets for proposals.

P. Campbell asked if all proposals, even for those centers/initiatives which may already exist, need to be considered on the same timeline. A. Cristini conveyed the desire is to have one process. S. Gaulden noted that this is an opportunity to refresh and involve the entire College community in customized proposals that go out to donors. She conveyed that the process is not meant to exclude existing centers/initiatives.

A. Cristini will share more information about the proposal submission once it is ready online.