

## MINUTES

### Ramapo College Board of Trustees

### Deans' Council

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Thursday, March 3, 2022, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

AC 202

#### A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 17 meeting were approved.

#### B. Fall 2022 Course Schedule

S. Gaulden commented on the issues of the course mod app and Banner integration. D. Couzens will send a schedule report to the Deans today to check the schedule; S. Gaulden requested careful review of capacities and room allotments.

#### C. Convener Job Description

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x3Opo\\_HGryqAmvj4oB0y4Dvex1mlrgCVspEkpFoAc/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x3Opo_HGryqAmvj4oB0y4Dvex1mlrgCVspEkpFoAc/edit)

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#### D. Therapy Assistance Online (TAO)

M. Johnston and J. Green joined the meeting. C. Romano introduced TAO and noted M. Johnston and J. Green provided an eyeopening presentation to EMSA recently.

M. Johnston spoke about the origins of TAO through the University of Florida counseling center. Over 150 institutions in the US utilize TAO. The goal of the Counseling Center is to maximize TAO's usage on campus, as there are many applications as evidenced by other schools (e.g., University of California-Irvine uses the platform for roommate conflict resolution support; University of Delaware integrates it into its Athletics, etc.). It includes evidence-based content and methodology.

J. Green shared that TAO was implemented in 2019 when the Counseling Center had a waitlist, and it was used as a pre-therapy approach. The Center has since pivoted its approach and intends to use it as a preventative measure. J. Green reviewed the data from Ramapo's response to the ACHA National Health Survey which overall found four factors affecting academic performance - stress, anxiety, sleep disturbances, and depression. J. Green reviewed the detail response data. A. Lorenz inquired how the survey responses were structured; M. Johnston noted they are likert scale but will double-check. E. Saiff inquired if the source of the results is included. J. Green noted that that information is not captured in the survey but likely includes many causes included personal/family reasons. M. Johnston shared data on improvements after TAO implementation.

M. Johnston reviewed examples of incorporating TAO into professional coursework for majors such as social work, psychology, nursing, etc. There was some discussion about how TAO could be included in other courses (e.g., building in a break time in longer classes and using one of the mindfulness or meditation modules). M. Johnston reviewed several modules.

J. Green offered to attend faculty meetings to share the information more broadly. S. Gaulden will

bring the concept to the FA President and will include it in the spring Conveners meeting. E. Petkus recommended an FA meeting.

M. Johnston noted that TAO is open to anyone with a Ramapo email account, so faculty and staff may utilize it as well.

C. Romano noted the number of students coming into Ramapo with a clinical diagnosis of a mental health condition is rapidly rising and the mental health crises needs to be addressed proactively in order for students to be able to succeed academically.

## **E. DWF Analysis**

S. Gaulden shared that she and C. Romano have been discussing the retention rate. ITS provided data on new-to-Ramapo students and those enrolled in first-year courses. She provided an overview of the executive summary of her analysis.

A. Lorenz inquired if there was a significant difference between the DWFY rates this year vs. five years ago. C. Romano responded that the DWF rates have been provided before and he believes there are two options for courses that continually appear on the list - trying something different in the courses or accepting that a percentage of students will continue to be unsuccessful. S. Hangen responded and shared the changes being implemented in CRWT in Fall 2022. S. Gaulden noted that by trying something different, it does not mean lowering academic standards. E. Petkus inquired about the enrollment trends in developmental courses. S. Gaulden responded that the enrollment is increasing. E. Petkus added that the courses need to shift. S. Gaulden posed several questions, including if there is a need to conduct outreach to high schools, to hire different adjuncts, and/or to look at the curriculum,

E. Petkus noted that this analysis is likely exacerbated by the pandemic but the learning gap will continue regardless. S. Hangen also shared that the mental health crisis affects these rates as well. S. Gaulden agreed to both points and that there must be a multi-prong approach.

S. Hangen suggested considering year-round college and utilizing summer. She shared several changes being made in the curriculum:

- CRWT will no longer have 080 and 090 as developmental courses; only 090 will be offered and the curriculum is being adapted. Students will also have the option to select higher section and those sections will be earmarked for supplemental instruction.
- HIST is redesigning its curriculum by changing the requirements and adapting subject areas.
- Finally, given that first-semester students find Pathways to be overwhelming on top of everything else, HGS is allowing students to delay starting the modules.

P. Campbell shared an example as well: Musicianship is a gateway course for MUSI majors; the curriculum has been adapted.

However, he noted that the curriculum cannot eliminate the skills students need to move forward; rather, the question is how to meet students where they are and then get them to where they need to be. He shared a second example regarding a request from the Enhance program.

There was further discussion. S. Gaulden requested the Deans initiate these conversations with faculty. Excerpts from the analysis can be shared. She encouraged the Deans to maximize the program reviews in order to prompt innovations.

## **F. Thomases Award**

*Deadline for nominations: February 9*

Award: \$700

Award ceremony: March 9

E. Saiff will send a nomination to the Provost.

There was discussion about postponing the ceremony. D. Couzens suggested scheduling the Thomases Award ceremony immediately after the Bischoff Award ceremony on March 30. S. Gaulden will speak with C. Naporano and N. Choudhury.

## **G. Schomburg Funds for Spring 2022**

Applications may be submitted through <https://forms.gle/7ipb2tvrGQd5JSB17>

S. Gaulden encouraged Deans to remind faculty that there is approximately \$9000 remaining in the Schomburg budget for Spring 2022 requests.

## **H. Recap from COPLAC CAO Meeting**

A. Lorenz attend the COPLAC CAO meeting on S. Gaulden's behalf. He provided a recap:

- There was a discussion about awarded grants.
- The CAO's saw a presentation on faculty turnover and attrition.
- There were discussion about institutions reconsidering tenure and promotion policies due to the pandemic's impact.
- C. Woodcox shared a reminder of the awards and Beard Leadership Award and the upcoming conferences.

S. Hangen noted that she has requested COPLAC's consideration of a language consortium, however, there has not been much movement.

## **I. New Business**

*Academic Achievement Awards:* S. Gaulden noted that graduates from January, June, and August are eligible. A. Stangl will provide Deans with updated spreadsheets.

*Admitted Student Day:* S. Gaulden noted that faculty would like to be involved in developing the format of this event. C. Romano shared that the Deans may decide what is best for the school. C. Romano will send the Deans dates for "Roadrunner for a Day."

*Commencement:* S. Gaulden noted that C. Jebb wants everyone to participate. She asked the Deans to encourage their staff and faculty. The Deans agreed it would be helpful to have the President's encouragement.

*Face Coverings:* Masks will still be required; the Pandemic Assessment Team will send communications later this month and after spring break about the decision and will communicate any changes.

*Faculty Resource Network Conference:* S. Gaulden shared an update and also noted that she is considering the membership level for next AY.

*Priority Needs Proposals (PNP):* S. Gaulden will send a letter to those that are not advancing. C. Romano noted that some submissions could still move forward as they may not fit exactly into the PNP category. There was a general discussion about the PNPs. Those that are advancing will be brought to Cabinet in March.

*Roundtable Discussion with P. Wadors:* S. Gaulden and D. Couzens provided an update and requested suggestions for additional students that could be invited.