

Task Force on College-wide Academic Structures

Charge Date: April 15, 2024

Background: The Comprehensive Academic Plan (CAP) for Ramapo College outlines a vision for the future, emphasizing the need for dynamic, innovative, and effective academic structures to support the college's mission. In alignment with this strategic direction, a Faculty Task Force is hereby established to provide expertise, insights, and recommendations to the Provost on revising or restructuring college-wide academic structures.

Charge: The Task Force on College-wide Academic Structures is charged with the following responsibilities:

1. Review the Comprehensive Academic Plan. Thoroughly examine the Comprehensive Academic Plan, paying particular attention to goals and objectives related to academic structures. Understand the overarching vision and key strategies set forth by the plan.
2. Assessment of Current Academic Structures. Conduct an assessment of the existing academic structures within the college. Evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with the current organizational framework.
3. Engage Stakeholders. Facilitate open and inclusive discussions with faculty, students, staff, and relevant stakeholders to gather diverse perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of the current academic structures and to identify areas for improvement or potential new structures to support our mission.
4. Research and benchmark against current and best practices in academic structures within peer institutions and leading institutions. Identify successful models that align with the goals outlined in CAP.
5. Develop a set of clear and actionable recommendations or recommended options to the Provost for enhancing school-wide academic structures. Consider factors such as interdisciplinary collaboration, flexibility, student achievement, disciplinary cohesion, manageability of unit.

6. Implementation Strategies. Provide strategies and practical steps for the phased implementation of recommended changes. Consider potential challenges and proposed solutions to ensure a smooth transition.
7. Establish metrics and mechanisms for ongoing assessment to measure the effectiveness of the implemented changes.
8. Input and Community. Develop a plan for stakeholder input into drafts of recommendations and a plan to disseminate the task force's findings. This step should ensure transparency and solicit feedback for continuous improvement.

Timeline: The Task Force is expected to complete its work by November 1, 2024 with regular progress reports and consultation with the Provost. The committee should plan to meet every other week throughout the faculty contract period to move the work forward.

Reporting. Submit a final report detailing the findings, recommendations and implementation plan to the Provost.

Members:

Co-Chair: Dean Ken Goldstein – CA

Co-Chair: Emma Rainforth – TAS

Ruma Sen – CA

Sangha Padhy – SSHS

Kathleen Ray – Graduate Programs

Malavika Sundararajan – ASB

Lisa Cassidy – HGS

Katie Cohen – LLC

Kathy Stathis – Fiscal Health Core

Anthony Dovi – Admissions and Enrollment