TO: Provost’s Council  

FROM: Judith M. Bowman  
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SUBJ: Provost’s Council Agenda for Tuesday, April 8, 2014  

The Provost’s Council will meet on Tuesday, April 8 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Board Room in Koch Hall. The following agenda items will be discussed:  

1. GIS and Opportunities at the Peninsula Center (see attachment, p. 1-8)  
   Barry Miller  

2. Update on Online Programs/Satellite Transition (see attachment, p. 9) and Optimum Class Size for Online Courses  
   Andy Casiello  

3. SCHEV Competencies in Courses  
   Worth Pickering  

4. Proposal for Parental Leave (see attachment, p. 10)  
   Jeanie Kline  

5. Undergraduate Research Learning Communities (2014-15)  
   David Metzger  

6. Announcements  
   A. MayMester Proposal – Jeanie Kline  
   B. Other
The Provost’s Council met on Tuesday, April 8 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Board Room in Koch Hall. Those present were Carol Simpson (Chair), Oktay Baysal, Jane Bray, Andy Casiello, Chandra de Silva, Jim Duffy, Jeanie Kline, Brenda Lewis, David Metzger, Barry Miller, Shelley Mishoe, Ginny O’Herron, Renee Olander, Brian Payne, Worth Pickering, Chris Platsoucas, Charles Wilson, and Gil Yochum. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. GIS/Opportunities at the Peninsula Center

   Barry Miller presented data from the GIS study showing permanent addresses for ODU students who live on the Peninsula, noting that they account for more than 10% of the University’s enrollment. He provided headcounts and registrations by college and major, and offered ideas for targeting specific programs more heavily, reaching out to TNCC students, and offering flexible course formats. Discussion ensued about enhanced signage on the TNCC campus, greater visibility of 2+2 articulation agreements, outreach in the community, and shared resources. An example of shared resources is the TNCC-ODU joint employment of Donna Savage, who serves as a good resource for both institutions. Barry will continue to pursue key opportunities at the Peninsula Center.

2. Distance Learning Update on Transition from Satellite to Online Programs

   Andy Casiello presented information on the transition from satellite-delivered courses to a robust web-interface with both synchronous and asynchronous delivery formats. The transition will be completed at the end of summer. He noted that the faculty platform will not change but that students will experience shifts in receiving course content and in class interactions. There is interest in developing complete four-year programs, to be accomplished when more first- and second-year classes are developed in online formats. A number of general education classes are currently offered—or are in development—with a full complement of these offerings likely available by 2016. Discussion included the need to communicate effectively with everyone who may be impacted by the changes, the importance of notifying SACS when substantive changes are planned, and the importance of reaching the increased enrollment projections provided to SCHEV. Marketing of the online MBA has resulted in a larger application pool.

3. SCHEV Competencies in Courses

   Worth Pickering shared information about competencies related to general education courses. During the Faculty Institute on Writing and Critical Thinking, key themes emerged (noted on the single-page handout) including the importance...
of establishing a University-wide focus on critical thinking and writing skills. He indicated that general education not only falls under the purview of Arts and Letters and Sciences, but on numerous other areas at the University. Learning outcomes need to be identified for each course so that essential skills are clearly articulated for students. E-portfolios represent important tools for both students and employers in the learning process. Discussion included the importance of reinforcing these learning outcomes in all classes—by providing opportunities for writing, presenting, and making connections among key points in course content. A second handout related to employer priorities bolstered the need for such skills, as well as for the importance of a liberal education.

4. Proposal for Parental Leave

On behalf of the University Women’s Caucus, Jeanie Kline presented a proposed policy for teaching faculty that would provide for non-teaching duties during a semester or summer term due to the birth or adoption of a new family member. Members of the Provost’s Council were fully supportive of the policy; it will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate prior to the end of the semester.

5. Undergraduate Research Learning Communities

David Metzger noted the importance of introducing undergraduate students to research and associated methodologies early in their studies. He indicated that there is a great deal of interest among undergraduates for possible research opportunities. E-portfolios and presentation skills (as discussed during the presentation on general education competencies) are important components of undergraduate programs when highlighting research prospects. The Research Learning Communities provide undergraduate students with options to pursue research in their respective fields.

6. Announcements
   A. Jeanie Kline reported that there is interest in developing a “May-mester” period at the beginning of the Summer Term. A pilot has been recommended for Summer 2015. She will keep the deans and others informed as more details become available.