Provost’s Mid-Year Retreat – January 28, 2016
Tri-Cities Center, Room 2107

Agenda:

8:30-9:00 a.m.     Coffee, muffins and fruit available

9:00-9:55 a.m.     Panel Discussion on Successful Online Programs from a Program
                   Director’s Perspective – David Chapman, Christopher Glass, and
                   Kevin Depew

10:00-10:45 a.m.   Changes in Advising – Brian Payne and Sandy Waters

10:45-11:00 a.m.   Break

11:00-11:50 a.m.   Presentations on Good Assessment Practices – Tisha Paredes and
                   Faculty Members

11:50-12:45 p.m.   Lunch

12:45-1:30 p.m.    Reports from the Provost’s Fellows – Fred Dobbs, Debra Major,
                   and Dale Miller

1:30-2:10 p.m.     Update on Interdisciplinary Programs – Brian Payne

2:15-2:30 p.m.     COACHE Update – Chandra de Silva

2:30 p.m.          Summary and Adjournment
The Provost’s Council mid-year retreat was held on January 28, 2016 from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Tri-Cities Center. Those present were Chandra de Silva (Chair), Kimberly Adams-Tufts, Debbie Bauman, Richard Dean Benjamin, Jane Bray, Judy Bowman, Leigh Butler, Andy Casiello, David Chapman, Kevin DePew, Shirshak Dhali, Gail Dickinson, Fred Dobbs, Clair Dorsey, Jim Duffy, David Earnest, George Fowler, Christopher Glass, Nancy Grden, Dana Heller, Kiran Karande, Janet Katz, Jennifer Kidd, Jeanie Kline, Debbie Major, Terri Mathews, Lisa Mayes, Connie Merriman, Dale Miller, Shelley Mishoe, Ravi Makkamala, Renee Olander, Tisha Paredes, Brian Payne, Chris Platsoucas, Marcelo Siles, David Silvis, Liz Smith, Jeff Tanner, Linda Vahala, Josh Wallach, Sandy Waters, Charles Wilson, and Robert Wojtowicz. The following topics were discussed.

1. Panel Discussion on Successful Online Programs from a Program Director’s Perspective

   David Chapman, Christopher Glass, and Kevin Depew described actions they have taken as program directors to build their online graduate programs. Successful strategies they have employed are as follows.

   - Have a transactional presence to engage students in the recruitment phase and involve them in class.
   - Maintain a schedule of classes, both online and on campus, for semesters in advance.
   - Focus on engagement not just marketing.
   - Use of cohort groups.
   - One-stop shop for administrative support for students.

As far as what upper administration can do to help, they suggested the following.

   - More faculty
   - Replace graduate program directors when it is not working.
   - Support adjunct faculty in a more proactive way and provide more rewards for them.
   - Funding to retool courses.
   - Help with recruitment.
   - Assistance in accommodating large class sizes.

Chandra de Silva informed the group that he is working to raise adjunct pay. He asked to be informed if there is a specific need or a top-notch prospective adjunct.
2. Changes in Advising

Brian Payne distributed the spring 2016 weekly enrollment report for graduate students and graduate enrollment trends at public universities in Virginia. Old Dominion is the only doctoral University in Virginia where graduate enrollment is down. Dr. Payne demonstrated some of the tools on the EAB Student Success Collaborative and encouraged those present to use the tools.

Sandy Waters distributed the Undergraduate Academic Advising Five Year Strategic Plan for 2015-2020. The plan involves an expansion of the EAB Student Success Collaborative in the following areas.

- A new early alert grade process
- An improved online application system
- Targeted outreach campaigns to specific populations
- Enhanced reporting capabilities
- Integration of the advising and tutoring systems

Ms. Waters announced that an Undergraduate Advising Task Force charged to review the entire undergraduate advising program will be created.

Dr. Payne and Ms. Waters are available to come to college meetings to demonstrate the EAB tools.

3. Presentations on Good Assessment Practices

Tisha Paredes introduced Dana Heller, Jennifer Kidd and Josh Wallach who each discussed how they have used assessment to improve their programs. Dr. Heller talked about how her department assessed the English composition requirement to arrive at better outcomes. She stressed the importance of communication, collaboration, and coordination.

Dr. Kidd described how she used peer review to improve disciplinary writing in her class and how she used the feedback received to make changes in the class for the next semester. Dr. Wallach described changes that were made in his Chemistry 121 class that resulted in lowering the DFW rate and increasing the average national percentile ranking on the final exam.

4. Reports from the Provost’s Fellows

Fred Dobbs’ assignment as a Provost’s Fellow was to identify and map efforts to adopt ePortfolio, survey e-practitioners on campus, and use the responses to determine where ePortfolios are doing well and where they are not. For the remainder of his fellowship, he will synthesize the interview data, develop a plan to implement ePortfolio in his department, contribute to the ePortfolio initiative goal to scale up, and prepare a final report.
Debra Major’s assignment was faculty and staff diversity. She worked on the dual career hiring resources guide, served as a member of the President’s Task Force on Inclusive Excellence, and worked with diversity leaders in each college on the CORE2 Initiative. She highlighted some of the activities the faculty diversity leaders implemented in each college.

Dale Miller’s assignment related to faculty development. He provided information to faculty through various workshops and occasionally met with individual faculty experiencing problems. He also developed an online exit satisfaction survey that was sent to faculty who resigned in the last three years and distributed the results of the survey. Dr. Miller will develop a satisfaction survey for adjuncts.

Chandra de Silva asked the group to let him know of other areas in which it would be useful to have a Provost’s Fellow.

5. Update on Interdisciplinary Initiatives

Brian Payne presented an update on interdisciplinary initiatives in the past year. One area is the development of a new major in cybersecurity in the interdisciplinary studies undergraduate degree. Jeanie Kline presented information on the new major in leadership, which is also part of the interdisciplinary studies undergraduate degree. Liz Smith announced that an interdisciplinary minor in cybersecurity has been approved and described two interdisciplinary minors that are under development, conservation leadership and entrepreneurship.

6. COACHE Update

Chandra de Silva announced that the University will participate in the COACHE (Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education) Survey in spring 2016. All full-time faculty will be included in the survey. The results will provide data for the new Provost. Dr. de Silva asked the Deans to encourage their faculty to participate.

7. Summary and Adjournment

Chandra de Silva asked to be informed of any areas not covered in the retreat that should be discussed.