The Provost’s Council met on Tuesday, June 26 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Board Room in Koch Hall. Those present were Austin Agho (Chair), Debbie Bauman, Jane Bray, David Burdige, Andy Casiello, Gail Dodge, Jim Duffy, George Fowler, Kate Hawkins, Connie Merriman, Renee Olander, Brian Payne, Elaine Pearson, Kent Sandstrom, Jim Shaeffer, Ben Stuart, Robert Wojtowicz, and Wie Yusuf. Guests attending were Giovanna Genard, Alex Liebold, and Tisha Paredes. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. The May 22 minutes were approved. Austin Agho introduced Kate Hawkins, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, and Elaine Pearson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, and welcomed them to their first Provost’s Council meeting.

2. ODU Branding

Giovanna Genard and Alex Liebold, Creative Director with 160over90, presented information on the branding initiative, which began a year ago. The goal of the initiative is to develop a singular brand voice. Branding workshops and training with campus constituents will be held June 26 and 27.

Ms. Genard and Mr. Liebold described the brand pillars for ODU as follows.

- Confidently self-made
- Regionally essential, globally impactful
- Authentically diverse
- Trailblazing leader

3. MOUs for Community-Based Placements for Field Experiences, Clinical Experiences, and Internships

Jim Duffy discussed how various agreements and MOUs are tracked. Academic Affairs has a file for some agreements while others are tracked in the College of Education and the College of Health Sciences. Several large entities such as Sentara have asked if a master agreement could be done rather than individual agreements. Mr. Duffy indicated this can be looked at as agreements are reviewed. He added that his office tries to be sure agreements are no older than five years. The deans felt that a SharePoint site containing all agreements and MOUs would be helpful. Academic Affairs will work on creating this.

4. Proposed National Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience
Gail Dodge described the proposed Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience. A task force led by Morris Foster developed the proposal. The goal is to organize the work that is going on at the University in this area to be able to take advantage of opportunities. ODU is uniquely positioned to be a national leader in coastal adaptation and resilience.

The institute will have four main areas of expertise.

- Sea level rise and climate science
- Flooding and the built environment
- Social science and policy of coastal resilience
- Health dimensions of coastal resilience

The institute is planned to begin in the fall. It will be led by three assistant directors (for research, outreach and education) and four program heads corresponding to the four areas of expertise. There will also be an oversight committee consisting of the deans, Provost, and Vice President for Research and a faculty advisory board with one representative from each college and one representative from the Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography, the Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resilience, and the ODU Resilience Collaborative. An immediate priority is to hire a Communications Specialist. In the future, a national search will be launched for a Director.

Dr. Dodge asked Council members to let her know of questions or concerns.

5. Update on First Class

First Class is a presentation for freshman students on the Saturday before classes start for the fall semester. Tisha Paredes presented an overview of the presentation, which has been revised based on faculty input. The presentation covers college myths, college success tips, and available student support. David Burdige recommended that the presentation be made available to all faculty, especially those teaching lower-level general education classes. Gail Dodge suggested having a student address the sessions about success in math and the importance of supplemental learning.

6. Student Success Data

Tisha Paredes presented data describing first-year students on academic warning in the 2017 cohort. First-year students in academic difficulty had slightly lower SAT scores and high school GPAs than those who were not in academic difficulty. They also tended to be first generation students, Pell recipients, and identified as “high risk” by the TCI. Dr. Paredes noted that the top predictor of success is perceived faculty support. The data will be presented to the student success team.

Austin Agho asked for the data to be broken out for online students.