The Provost’s Council met on Tuesday, August 28 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Board Room in Koch Hall. Those present were Austin Agho (Chair), Jane Bray, David Burdige, Andy Casiello, Gail Dodge, Dennis Gregory, George Fowler, Kate Hawkins, Brian Payne, Elaine Pearson, Kent Sandstrom, Karen Sanzo, Jim Shaeffer, Ben Stuart, Jeff Tanner, and Bonnie Van Lunen. Attending as guests were Jenn Grimm, Heather Huling and Lisa Mayes. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. The June 26, 2018 minutes were approved.

2. Peer Educator Program Update

Lisa Mayes and Jenn Grimm presented an update on the peer educator program. The program is being phased out due to limited resources, low utilization of support services, existence of other departmental support services, and opportunities to strengthen connections between students, majors, the college, faculty, and peers. Instead, services will be offered by the Center for High Impact Practices, including peer academic coaching for targeted populations, tutor training and peer-assisted student sessions training (PASS), and tutoring services. Center staff will investigate options for 24/7 online tutoring. The deans expressed support for tutoring and PASS and expressed concern about resources available in the colleges to support these services.

3. Course Materials Adoption Policy

Brian Payne discussed proposed changes to the Textbook Adoption and Sales Policy, including renaming the policy as Course Materials Adoption Policy. The changes are in response to a state law requiring the creation of a policy on open education resources to be approved by each institution’s Board of Visitors. A committee consisting of Brian Payne, Andy Casiello, George Fowler, Todd Johnson, and a faculty member from each college developed the revised policy. Council members supported the revised policy, which will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for review.

David Burdige expressed concern about difficulties encountered by faculty when ordering textbooks. Brian Payne will inform Greg DuBois of the concerns.

4. Online Proctoring and Test Platform

Heather Huling presented an update on proctoring. Due to technology advances, increasing costs, and faculty and student issues, a workgroup was formed to explore additional proctoring options for students in online classes. The group settled on the
SmarterProctoring (SP) product, an “umbrella” under which all available proctoring options are accessed through each online course’s Blackboard site. Faculty will choose, by exam, which proctoring option(s) they want to make available to students. The four proctoring options available from SP are as follows.

- Live online proctoring, which will continue to be provided by ProctorU
- Automated proctoring, also managed by ProctorU
- Testing center proctoring using a network of testing centers
- Approved individual proctors

The SP product will be piloted this fall with a richer pilot in the spring. Assuming the pilots go well, SP will be launched officially in summer 2019.

5. Announcements

A. Austin Agho reminded the group about the retreat to be held on September 28. An agenda will be sent prior to the retreat.