The Provost’s Council met on Tuesday, November 27 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the SGA Senate Chambers in Webb Center. Those present were Austin Agho (Chair), Jane Bray, David Burdige, Andy Casiello, Gail Dodge, George Fowler, Dennis Gregory, Kate Hawkins, Renee Olander, Brian Payne, Elaine Pearson, Kent Sandstrom, Karen Sanzo, Jim Shaeffer, Ben Stuart, Jeff Tanner, Bonnie Van Lunen, and Robert Wojtowicz. Attending as guests were Erica Bryant, Daniela Cigularova, Patricia Hinton, Michael Moore, Christine Ricks, Vera Riddick, and Joe Ritchie. The following agenda items were discussed.

1. The September 25, 2018 minutes were approved.

2. The September 28, 2018 retreat minutes were approved.

3. Financial Aid Changes and Impact on Advising

Representatives from advising, financial aid and the registrar presented information on the new federal financial aid regulations. Highlights of the changes are as follows.

- Students must be enrolled in or accepted for enrollment in a recognized program of study to be eligible for federal financial aid. Students cannot be coded as undecided or undeclared.
  - Students can be coded as “Intended” but must be intended in a specific major, not just a college.
- Only courses that apply towards the degree requirements (including prerequisites) for the selected major and University requirements are covered under federal financial aid.
- Degree Works will be used to determine if a course is included in the program of study and thus covered by financial aid.
  - There will be an exceptions form for advisors to use to notify Financial Aid that a prerequisite class should be included in the program of study.
- Advisors will be asked to notify Degree Works of exceptions and substitutions beforehand rather than after the class has been completed and passed.
- Elective courses needed to meet the 120 credit hour minimum will be covered. More effort on the part of students will be required to keep up with the number of free electives in some programs.
- A student may receive aid when repeating a course that was previously failed (received a failing or unsatisfactory grade), regardless of the number of times the course was attempted and failed providing the student meets the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards.
• A student may receive aid to repeat a previously passed course (grade of ‘D-’ or higher) one additional time. Once a student has completed any course twice with a passing grade (grade of ‘D-’ or higher), he/she is no longer eligible to receive aid for that course. This rule applies whether or not the student received aid for earlier enrollments in the course.
  o The Financial Aid Office does not determine if a student may repeat a class, only whether a student may be eligible for financial aid for a repeat class.
• Students who are undeclared or undecided on a major will be coded as Arts and Letters intended with the Leadership major. These students will continue to be advised by the Center for Major Exploration.
• “My Major” is a pilot program being conducted during the fall 2018 term through the Center for Advising Administration and Academic Partnerships. The program uses the link odu.mymajor.com to help students who are undecided select a major. The link is also provided as a tool on the Admissions Office website.

Dennis Gregory recommended that the document be revised to include specific information for graduate students.

Vera Riddick informed Council members that there have also been changes to the Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP). In order to remain eligible for the VGAP, students must progress successfully through the degree to the next level (sophomore, junior, senior) upon completion of each full year of award received. To do this, a student must earn 30 credits total each academic year to successfully move to the next grade level. Therefore, students enrolled in 12 credits in the fall and spring terms will need to enroll in six credits in the summer to earn 30 credits for the year.

4. Transfer Grant Program

Daniela Cigularova provided information on the Two-Year College Transfer Grant Program, which provides an incentive for students to complete an associate degree at a Virginia public two-year college before transferring to a participating Virginia four-year college or university. Eligibility requirements include completion of the associate degree with a 3.0 or higher GPA and full-time enrollment at a participating college or university in the fall or spring immediately following completion of the associate degree. Transfer students can qualify for up to $3,000 for each of three years. Ms. Cigularova stressed that students must be accepted in a major to receive the transfer grant; intended majors are not eligible for the award.
Joe Ritchie gave a presentation on LGBTQ+ 101. The presentation is a prelude to the Safe Space Workshop. The following topics were covered.

- SafeSpace Committee including SafeSpace events and programs
  - The mission of the SafeSpace committee and program is to provide opportunities for education, advocacy, support, and mentoring for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and allied students, administrators, staff, and faculty.

- Sexuality and Gender Terminology/Continuum
  - Biological sex/sex assigned at birth
  - Gender identity – how one feels, sense of self
  - Gender expression – how one presents to others
  - Sexual orientation – physical, emotional or romantic attraction
  - Sexual behavior – one’s actions
  - Sexual identity – how one views him/herself
  - Gender identity ≠ sexual orientation.
  - No two experiences are the same.

- Intersectionality
  - Individuals simultaneously possess many identities and are members of multiple cultures, which intersect in numerous ways. Hence gender identity and sexual orientation do not exist within a bubble, but rather create complex and nuanced identities that may depend on other aspects of identity.
  - One should be mindful about the language used and strive to be inclusive.
  - If uncertain about someone’s gender it’s usually OK to ask how someone would like to be addressed.

- Being an LGBTQ+ Ally
  - Understand your privilege
  - Listen and do your homework
  - Speak up, not over
  - You’ll make mistakes. Apologize when you do.
  - Ally is a verb.

- Resources
  - SafeSpace Committee
  - Office of Intercultural Relations
  - Office of Counseling Services
- ODU SAGA
- ODU Gay Cultural Studies Department
- LGBT Life Center
- GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network)
- Trans* Student Education Resource (TSER)