Deans' Council Minutes
Wednesday, September 4, 2024
2:00 pm–4:00 pm

Attendees: Lisa Allen, Andrea Easter-Pilcher, David Ferro, Jason Francis, Ivana Fredotovic, James Hedges, Wendy Holliday, Stephanie Hollist, Brenda Kowalewski, Ravi Krovi, Roy Kwon, Yudi Lewis, Cass Morgan, Brad Mortensen, Jessica Oyler, Julie Rich, Yasmen Simonian, Julie Snowball, Doris Geide-Stevenson, James Taylor, Deborah Uman

Guests: Brandon Koford

Excused: Betsy Mennell, Mark Halverson, Norm Tarbox

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 7, 2024**
   a. James Taylor was thanked for his efforts in taking the August meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as written.
2. **Provost Updates - (Ravi Krovi)**
   a. **Comprehensive Campaign**
      i. Ravi asked Brad for updates, and Brad explained that the public phase of the comprehensive campaign is planned to launch during the 2025 Homecoming week. He shared current efforts to increase donation agreements, including scheduling individual meetings with Deans and their development directors.
   b. **New Chair Onboarding**
      i. Deans' Council agreed that reinstating this meeting would be helpful. Ravi shared that invitations will be sent out soon.
   c. **Faculty Senate Liaison Updates**
      i. Ravi reviewed the recent discussions around liaisons connecting with Ravi on a more regular basis. Ravi invited the liaisons for UCC, APAFT, and ASSA to meet him mid-semester.
   d. **Budget Updates**
      i. **Program Review Process:**
         1. Ravi shared discussions from a recent Chief Academic Officer meeting, explaining that USHE has paused the current program review process until further notice. He noted that USHE is opting to review similar programs across the state to evaluate program viability and duplication. Ravi shared that the 2025-2026 program review schedule will include programs with SIP codes associated with General Education, Business, and Law. Ravi noted that externally accredited program reviews will continue as previously scheduled. He committed to sharing USHE's

review schedule with Deans' Council. He also suggested discussing this topic during one-on-ones with deans.

  ii. **Tenure Track Replacements:**

   1. Ravi explained that new requests are on hold until October, when the VSIP process has concluded, and budget cycle information is more available. Deans' Council requested information about Voluntary Separation Incentive Program applicants, and Lisa offered to share the list she has received from Human Resources.

  iii. **Travel:**

   1. Ravi recommended that the Deans' Council be mindful of how travel funding is allocated considering the current budget climate.

e. **Accreditation**

  i. Ravi reviewed the ongoing Northwest Council on Colleges and Universities external accreditation processes and reminded Deans' Council of the October 7-8, 2024, site visit dates.

f. **Sub-120 Degree Group**

  i. Ravi explained that this group will be meeting next week. He asked that any additional proposals be sent to him ASAP.

g. **Dean & Department Chair Retreat Follow-up**

  i. Ravi plans to meet with the two groups who wrote the Curricular Analysis and Creating a First-Year Culture problem statements at the Dean & Department Chair Retreat. He promised to bring any follow-up information back to Deans' Council or to WALT.

h. **Congratulations**

  i. **RISE Awards**

   1. Ravi congratulated this year's awardees and wished the Office of Sponsored Projects and Technology Commercialization luck with its upcoming event.

  ii. **Editorial Position**

   1. Sandeep Rangaraju was selected as Associate Editor at Empirical Economics, an A-ranked journal on the Australian Business Deans Council's Journal Quality List.

  iii. **Academic Affairs Staff Professional Development Conference**

   1. Ravi congratulated those associated with the conference and requested that Aubrey distribute the agenda to Deans' Council.

  iv. **STARS Gold Status**

   1. Ravi expressed congratulations to the Sustainability Team on their efforts to achieve STARS Gold status. Brenda shared that the team hopes to achieve Platnum status by 2030.

i. **Data Summit**

      i.   Ivana shared information about the upcoming Data Summit and keynote speaker. She noted that the conference will be open to all campus constituents this year. She asked Deans' Council to watch for marketing efforts beginning in the next two weeks.

3. **Academic Agenda/Policy Discussions**

    a. [GSBE College Success Team Report](#) (**Doris Stevenson** & **Brandon Koford**)

        i.   Brandon shared recent efforts happening in the Goddard School, including developing a team mission, enhancing tutoring services for GSBE students, creating a GSBE-specific First Year Experience course that includes an overview of programs in the School, potentially developing a "Business as I See It" high school to university transition course, and connecting with Concurrent Enrollment (CE) faculty and students including providing lesson plans. Future projects focus on aligning Goddard School to the Amplify completion goals.

        ii.   Ravi commended Brandon and the committee on their focus on data-driven decisions and on their future plans. Deans' Council echoed the kudos on the CE connection efforts, sharing suggestions for potential ideas.

        iii.   Wendy reminded the group that OER grant applications will open in October.

    b. eHSI (**Ravi Krovi**, **Ivana Fredotovic**, & **Yudi Lewis**)

        i.   [Hispanic and Latino enrollment](#), [Dashboard](#)

           1. Ivana shared data about the current degree-seeking Hispanic student enrollment distribution across programs. She explained that the data offer a snapshot of WSU's progress toward the university's HSI goals. She also shared a dashboard implemented as part of the Enrollment Executive Summary that allows a drill-down of the data.

           2. Yudi thanked Ivana's group for their efforts and shared information about the Department of Education's standards for achieving eHSI and HSI status. She also offered to meet individually with Deans' Council members to discuss HSI efforts in their areas.

           3. Yudi spoke about Weber State's ongoing website translation efforts, highlighting the focus on localization and message translation, rather than word-for-word translation, on parent/family members/guardians and community-facing pages. She also spoke about the importance of building relationships, highlighting her work with HACU.

           4. Ravi spoke about Yudi's focus on removing barriers and how he plans to work with Deans' Council to develop infrastructure to support the efforts. He also spoke about grant opportunities available to the university as it achieves HSI status, thanking James Taylor and Brooke Lindgren in the Office of Sponsored Projects and Yudi for their efforts in applying for a VOLARE grant.

      ii.   Ravi shared that a plan for HSI efforts is under development. It will focus on enrollment, retention, infrastructure, maintaining fundraising, grants, and connecting with the community. He explained that the plan would be shared with Deans' Council upon completion.

4. **Academic Support Discussions**
   a. **TechConnect (Brad Mortensen)**
      i. Brad shared information about Snow College's efforts to recruit students from technical colleges looking to continue into associate degree programs. He also offered information about the implications of recent legislative statutes on shared services. President's Council recently met with Ogden Weber Tech and Davis Tech leadership to discuss similar pathways for tech college students seeking an associate's degree at WSU. He spoke briefly about efforts to package these efforts with a direct admissions process.
   b. **Direct Admissions (Brad Mortensen)**
      i. Brad offered information about a USHE group working to develop a common admissions application, highlighting the positive impacts of the state waiving admissions fees last year. He explained that leadership from WSU, along with their counterparts at Ogden-Weber Tech and Davis Tech, have met with local school superintendents to create a local common application. He hopes this will serve the students' needs until a state-wide application is developed. Jessica shared information from other states with a similar application process, noting the increased enrollment rates and opportunities to recruit students who may not view themselves as "college material." Brad explained that similar information was shared in last week's Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting.
   c. **Housing (Brad Mortensen)**
      i. Brad shared history about past housing efforts and future plans for public/private housing on campus, including the potential for married housing and plans for an additional 500 beds. He also shared information about a generous gift to support these efforts and explained that the target date for these changes is Fall 2027.
   d. **Accommodations (Stephanie Hollist & Alexandra Babilis)**
      i. This item was tabled until the next meeting.
   e. **Compensation for Degrees Earned (Brenda Kowalewski & Lisa Allen)**
      i. Brenda & Lisa spoke about the current structure for compensating staff members earning certifications and degrees. Brenda shared a comment from the Staff Professional Development Conference about the inconsistency between degreen completion compensation offered in different areas of Academic Affairs. Lisa shared historical information and current compensation amounts across the division. Deans' Council discussed the current processes and discussed potential implications and options.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Please use this space to offer any updates from your committee and to review others' updates before the meeting. These items won't be discussed in depth in the Deans' Council, but questions will be addressed.

Faculty Senate Committees

Charges will be linked from committee titles once they are approved

Committee and Liaison	Updates
ARCC- James Hedges	●
ASSA- Cass Morgan & Jessica Oyler	●
APAFT- Doris Geide Stevenson	●
CRAO- David Ferro	●
EIC- Andrea Easter-Pilcher	●
GEAIC- Roy Kwon	●
RSPG- Brenda Kowalewski	●
SBBFP- Yas Simonian	● The Committee will meet next Monday, September 9th
TLC- Julie Rich	●
UCC- Deborah Uman	●
Assessment- Ivana Fredotovic	●
FSC- Wendy Holliday	●

University Advancement Updates

(Betsy Mennell)

Area	Updates
Marketing & Communications	
Alumni	

Area	Updates
Development/Campaign	
Events	

Information Technology Updates
(Mark Halverson)

Updates