

**Provost's Advisory Council  
October 4, 2018 Meeting  
8:30-10am, Lynch Center, Fulton 515**

**In attendance:**

Anthony Annunziato	William Keane	David Quigley
Sharon Beckman	Jonathan Laurence	John Rakestraw
Judith Clair	Margaret Lombe	Catherine Read
Chris Constas	Allison Marshall	Akua Sarr
Thomas Crea	Theresa O'Keefe	Billy Soo
Melissa Dilillo	Omolayo Ojurongbe	Thomas Stegman, S.J.
Joseph Du Pont	Mariela Paez	Sasha Tomic
Can Erbil	Claudia Pouravelis	Thomas Wall
Gregory Kalscheur, S.J.		

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- 1. The summary of the April 26, 2018 meeting was approved.** It will be sent to the President's Office. All summaries are posted on the Provost's Office website; members are encouraged to share them with colleagues.
  - 2. Curriculum committee for University-wide academic programs: David Quigley**

David Quigley began a conversation on the emerging need for governance of academic programs that span multiple schools and colleges across the University. There are a number of potential programs that in the coming years will need oversight including new majors, minors, certificate programs, graduate programs, etc. To date, programs may have occasionally partnered with another unit, but have been overseen by an individual school. More pressingly, there is a need to establish a committee to review two proposals; a certificate program at the graduate level in palliative care, and a Global Health program minor, both spanning several schools.

He explained that this committee is not meant to replace the local Education Policy Committees (EPCs), nor is it meant as a university-wide curriculum committee for all courses. There will be clear limits on what the committee will review, and it will be governed by, and work in concert with, the University statutes. Individual EPCs will still review school specific proposals but we now have programs that require more oversight than what the existing structure provides.

Billy Soo added some background. In thinking about the committee, he did benchmarking and found that many peer schools have some sort of University-wide committee or faculty senate that reviews programs spanning multiple schools.

A council member asked how many EPCs there are. Another council member asked if the members of the new committee would also be members of an EPC?

David responded that most schools have one EPC that meets regularly, while MCA&S has both an undergraduate and graduate EPC. He noted that the members of the new committee

would ideally also be members of an EPC but there are still questions related to the number of members and how to balance disciplines and backgrounds.

A council member asked if there would be any retroactive review of existing programs.

David answered that it is unlikely an existing program would be reviewed, but could imagine a scenario where an existing program may want to propose a new credential or certificate, and that might be something that the committee reviewed.

A council member asked what the evaluation process would look like for newly approved programs.

David responded that there might be a provisional launch of a new program, with two or three year pilot, a cap on the number of students, and a robust review at the end of the pilot period.

### **3. Revised faculty/staff-student consensual relationship policy: Nora Field, Deputy General Counsel**

David introduced Nora Field, Deputy University Counsel, to talk about the draft of the new policy on consensual relationships.

Nora began with some background on the process. In the spring, Billy Soo approached her to take a look at the existing policy. She expressed concerns that the policy was not up to best practices and suggested that it be re-written entirely. Discussions took place across campus, and peer school policies were reviewed.

She continued, explaining that the new policy has three significant changes:

- It applies across the board, not just in the academic realm between faculty and students, but to all employee categories. It will be a University-wide policy. As such, it will go through a University vetting process and final approval will come from the University President.
- It includes an outright prohibition of relationships with undergraduate students.
- It contemplates disciplinary action in the event of a prohibited relationship. The existing policy states that there must be self-reporting of a relationship and recusal from the teaching or supervisory relationship.

Billy Soo added that, in terms of faculty members or employees and graduate students, there can be no relationship if there is any sort of supervisory or teaching evaluation over the student.

A council member mentioned that some schools impose this sort of restriction upon all members of a department, and asked if members of the community are considered mandatory reporters, similar to the discriminatory harassment policy. A council member also noted that this policy can impact faculty relationships within a small department.

Nora responded that they had not considered a blanket restriction for relationships within departments, but could review other policies that included such a restriction. She acknowledged that they would need to review the distinction between “must” and “should” report.

A council member asked for clarity around the definition of a graduate assistant and suggested that the wording was vague enough to cover any graduate assistant anywhere in the university who is in a relationship with an undergraduate, not specifically in a supervisory capacity.

Billy answered that the policy was meant to cover graduate teaching assistants or graduate assistants with supervisory roles in a research lab. The intention is to prohibit only those in supervisory or teaching relationships.

A council member asked about exceptions for pre-existing relationships or marriages.

Nora answered that protections would be put in place, and in some cases determinations made on a case-by-case basis by either Human Resources or the Provost’s Office as to the appropriateness of the relationship.

**4. Proposal to grant early registration to student-athletes: Athletics Advisory Board members Bob Murphy (Department of Economics) and Mike Naughton (Physics Department). Continuation of spring 2018 discussion.**

David introduced Bob Murphy, chair of the Athletic Advisory Board (AAB) and Mike Naughton, board member, for a continuation of the conversation from last spring about the proposal to grant early registration to student-athletes.

Bob began with background on the proposal. BC participates in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), the premiere academic conference among the Power Five. The ACC strives to support the academic mission of the member institutions, sponsoring several events each year to leverage the academic side of the athletic league. BC is the only school in the ACC that does not provide some level of priority registration for their athletes.

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee approached the AAB last year with a proposal for early registration for student-athletes, who face scheduling constraints with their practice schedules, games, and travel. The AAB reviewed the student proposal and developed a revised version, with the goal of fairness to all students, and voted unanimously to recommend implementation of the proposal. The Board does not endorse preference based on status, but on the basis of need. The board found sufficient constraints to warrant some change in order to provide those students with the same experience as non-athletes. He noted that BC also has a contractual obligation to field teams in these sports.

Mike provided some details on the proposal, noting that the board believes it is a fair compromise that maintains fairness to all students. It is a limited priority registration which does not change the statistical probability of getting into an early registration window for non-

student-athletes. Student-athletes would be assigned to a block during the first four hours of their scheduled class registration days. The proposal is to implement on a trial basis for the first year, including only rising juniors and seniors, with a review at the end of the year to monitor the response, effectiveness, clustering, etc. He noted that clustering occurs at many levels already, not just among student-athletes.

Bob added that student-athletes have indicated that the biggest concern is getting into their junior and senior year electives.

A council member asked about the possible negative reaction from non-student athletes. Another council member asked how many additional students would be added to each block.

Mike responded that considerable thought was given to how non-athletes would react. The impact should be minimal. The chances of getting into one of the earlier registrations blocks does not change, however the pool of students in each of those blocks will increase.

Bob added that there are approximately 150-160 student-athletes in each of the junior and senior class. Distributing those students into the first four hours of the scheduled blocks would add about 10 students to each block. The impact, while present, should be minimal.

## **5. Reminder on Academic Calendar: Billy Soo**

Billy Soo began with a reminder of the expanded fall break around the Columbus Day holiday (Monday, October 8 and Tuesday, October 9) for fall 2018 and fall 2019. In 2020, the calendar will revert to a single holiday (Monday) for Columbus Day. He asked faculty to try and get a sense from students if the additional day of break was helpful, or if it was more disruptive than useful.

A council member noted that the day off might support students' physical and mental health and might allow for students to travel home more easily.

A council member asked if the additional day off will disappear completely after fall 2019, or the additional day will be reassessed.

David responded that the schedule depends on when Labor Day falls, so there will be another time when this will be possible in a few years.

A council member asked about the study days at the end of the semester, noting some confusion about whether classes will be held on Monday before the study days.

David responded that there are classes that Monday. In trying to balance the contact days for all courses, in the spring semester, there will be an extra Monday that will be swapped from a different day of the week.

## **6. Provost's Report: David Quigley**

David talked about the newly renamed Student-Athlete Academic Services office, SAAS (previously Learning Resources for Student Athletes). Akua Sarr led the search for a new director last spring and Michael Harris was hired. SAAS is an important part of the larger range of academic support offered for students under the Office of the Provost.