**Provost's Advisory Council**

**Summary of April 28, 2011 meeting**

Bert Garza

Pat DeLeeuw

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Gilda Morelli

Diana Pullin

Renee Jones

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David Quigley

Stephen Pfohl

Tom Wall

John Spinard

Anthony Annunziato

Larry McLaughlin

Maureen Kenny

Don Hafner

Amy Hutton

Anita Tien

Callista Roy

Harrison Kent

*Rosanna DeMarco, Chair of the Provost's Advisory Council, was unable to attend.*

1. The summary for the meeting of March 17, 2011 was approved. The summary will be sent to the President's Office. All summaries are posted on the Provost's Office website; members are encouraged to share the summary with colleagues.
2. Pat DeLeeuw circulated a list of proposed research metrics (attached) to be included in the School/Department Data Reports.

* Concerns were expressed that the activities of artists are not captured on the list.
* It was noted that the list is not an exhaustive representation of research productivity.
* It was observed that some of the categories are broad and subject to interpretation. In contrast, the teaching data in the Departmental Data Reports are independently verifiable. It was suggested that the research data should be verified (or "audited") as well.
* Some felt that the inclusion of research metrics in the Department Data Reports will make them more useful for intra-school analysis than cross-school comparisons, given the variety of research activities across the University.
* Members of the Council offered suggestions on additional metrics:
  1. Officership in professional organizations
  2. Undergraduates on research teams
  3. Editorships of scholarly series
  4. Requests to referee articles
  5. Development of working papers
  6. Accepted presentations as well as invited presentations
  7. Number of patent applications and patents awarded
  8. Number of grant applications submitted

Next steps:

1. Feedback will be shared at future meetings of the Council of Deans and Department Chairs.
2. The topic will likely be discussed at a Faculty Forum.
3. Chris Hepburn, Chair of the University Council on Teaching, joined the Council to review a proposal for peer review of teaching (attached). The proposal provides a framework for peer review of non-tenure track faculty, junior faculty, and senior faculty, and recommends a University-wide policy that establishes a set of general guidelines for peer mentoring and review of teaching.

* It was suggested that a list of University resources to assist faculty in improving their teaching might be added to the proposal.
* A member of Council questioned awarding release time to "Distinguished Teachers in Residence."
* It was observed that the determination of teaching ability should begin at the hiring process.
* A member of Council reported that some faculty have expressed concern that they are not trained in pedagogy, and are therefore reluctant to mentor colleagues in an area where they do not have expertise.
* It was suggested that annually, there should be a public event with a distinguished scholar focused on teaching.
* The introduction of peer review of tenured faculty was seen as potentially problematic in smaller departments. It was suggested that peer review of teaching might be workable if cognate departments cooperated in conducting reviews.
* A question was raised as to whether there should be a University-wide teaching evaluation committee that would be involved in review of faculty.
* It was observed that graduate teaching fellows and part-time faculty would particularly benefit from mentoring, and that a University-wide orientation at the beginning of the year would be helpful.
* It was noted that a workshop approach in which all departmental faculty would participate may be more constructive in improving departmental teaching and implemented more easily than a review process focused on individual faculty.

Next steps:

1. Feedback from the Council will be shared with the UCT.
2. The proposal will then go before the Council of Deans before returning to the Provost's Advisory Council in the fall.
3. Provost's Report

* Faculty are urged to attend Commencement and, if possible, the Baccalaureate Mass.
* Pat DeLeeuw noted that this is the last meeting of the Provost's Advisory Council of the year. A faculty chair for 2011-12 will be elected over the summer by email.
* Bert Garza thanked members of Council for their time and service this year.