

Chair's Meeting
May 8, 2019

Present: V. Rider, M. Meier, T. Flood, B. Bonneken, C. Costello, J. Oliver, B. Conrad, D. Whitbeck, B. Winters, C. Patterson, C. Allen, S. Marchant, C. Geifer, M. Pomatto, N. Grantham.

Dr. Pomatto began the last meeting of the semester by acknowledging the continued support and work of the leadership team and expressing her appreciation for their teamwork on behalf of the College throughout the academic year.

Chair/Department Updates:

Biology: Dr. Rider expressed appreciation to all who attended Dr. Dixie Smith's, former chair, retirement reception. She said there was a good turnout and that Dixie appreciated it.

M. Meier: Development will host "half century alumni" tomorrow.

Military Science/C. Costello: Over \$8,000 in scholarships have been distributed to cadets for the next academic year. The Commissioning Ceremony is this Friday

Art/J. Oliver: If anyone hasn't had a chance to see them, senior exhibits are still up in the gallery.

Women & Gender Studies/B. Conrad: WGS sponsored their year-end event which recognized the winner of the WGS essay contest, which was a project on changing patterns in student communication.

Family & Consumer Sciences/D. Whitbeck: Since there is a national shortage of teachers, the FCS has begun a signing ceremony by recently signing a Seneca High School graduate who is coming to PSU on a scholarship. The signing ceremony has been posted on social media, the national organization's Facebook page for teachers. The ceremony will advertise the department and may be a recruiting tool.

Music/S. Marchant: Music held a signing ceremony for PHS band students who will be attending PSU next fall. The PHS choir concert is in McCray tonight. Music's 120 hour exception will be before KBOR next week.

Nursing/C. Geifer: The School of Nursing's pinning ceremony is this Friday at 2:00. There are 78 graduating seniors. The first eight graduates of the BSN to DNP program have all passed their boards and have found positions.

Strategic Visioning Update: Currently, data being analyzed includes retention information on transfers and first-times students as well as data on cost, credit hour production, and relationship between the two.

Dr. Pomatto expressed interest in activities/procedures employed by departments in student recruitment/retention at the department level; she asked if chairs would share their departments' procedures with the group. Outlining their processes might be helpful in creating a narrative of the College's efforts in those areas. She also suggested creating an updated "fact sheet" that overviews the College and its activities and accomplishments to present to the new Provost so that he can get a good overview of CAS activities. She referenced the handout from the CAS General Faculty meeting as a template, for it provided selective activities from each department. Her goal, however, is a more inclusive list that showcases the contributions and achievements of CAS and CAS faculty, while providing a more complete picture of CAS.

Dr. Pomatto encouraged faculty participation in advising and E-learning training sessions provided by the University and suggested chairs encourage faculty to take advantage of summer sessions. Currently, four spots remain open in the Master Advising Training for June, while the E-learning academy has increased its session capacity to 20 to meet demand.

Dr. Pomatto opened a discussion on the need for more marketing assistance at the College level. One possibility is improving communication with students and devising a plan that employs more communication formats that students embrace and use on a daily basis (Instagram and texting, as examples). The consensus seems to be that there is a need for better communication with students and that employing electronic communication/social media platforms would be beneficial. The group discussed possible solutions (including use of Instagram and texting in marketing programs), resources necessary to carry out such a plan successfully, and the challenges of implementing this type of communication on a daily basis.

Announcements:

Performance/Evaluation Process has transitioned to the Gus Cloud platform so 2020 goals must be entered in Gus Cloud. Dr. Pomatto suggested keeping goals succinct and restricting goals to three or four areas. She encouraged consideration of the following areas for generation of goals: recruitment, retention, and leadership for strategic visioning, at department and university level.

Some funding is available for retention/recruitment endeavors at the college level. If departments have ideas, please bring them forward.

Course participation rates for the online evaluation system have been released. CAS has the second highest level of participation.

The leadership team will not meet again until beginning of summer session. Meeting time will be announced and will work around Pitt Cares advisement schedule. The group discussed advising the first generation of Pitt Pathway students and the challenges that come with the process.

Hope to make plans for a June retreat; details will follow at a later date.