

Chair's Meeting
June 5, 2019

Present: V. Rider, B. Bonneken, C. Cosello, J. Oliver, D. Whitbeck, B. Winters, C. Patterson, C. Allen, T. Flood, S. Marchant, C. Geifer, N. Grantham

Update on roof / water damage, Grubbs, third/fourth floors: The 5/20 storm/tornado tore off a portion of the Grubbs roof (the west tower), resulting in significant water damage to the offices on fourth and some damage to rooms on third floors. The last couple of weeks have been dedicated to drying out the building, assessing damage, and designing a repair plan. Though some "emergency" patches have been done, water is still dripping in some locations. In yesterday's progress meeting, Tom Amershek reported that equipment will be brought in to further assess the damage and determine if and where water bubbles exist; once that information is known, facilities planning will determine how to begin repairs. Though carpets are anti-microbial, all will be assessed, in case any need to be replaced. This repair project is a major one; initial plan is to have all repairs completed by beginning of fall semester. Dr. Pomatto commended the efforts of Physical Plant personnel who worked long hours and double shifts, trying to contain the water and limit the damage. She added that response of staff and faculty alike was commendable, with everyone doing what they could.

Those faculty impacted by water damage are encouraged to make lists of property damage, both institutional and personal, for insurance purposes.

Pitt CARES: This week is the first week of CARES. Today, Dr. Pomatto set in on one of the parents' sessions presented by Student Success. By the end of this summer's CARES sessions, she hopes to have been able to view all presentations, both parent and student, to get an overview of the CARES content, presentation, process.

The ringing bell activity that is currently the final step in the Pitt Care process seems to be very well received by both students and parents. Both look forward to the moment when the student rings the bell, announcing his/her beginning at PSU. This activity seems to have a positive impact on the CARES experience.

Chair's Performance Reviews: Dr. Pomatto requested that chairs submit their performance reviews and next year's goals to the Dean's Office by June 16. Goals must be linked to the University's plan; she encouraged organizing goals around the following themes: recruitment, retention, and revisioning process. Reports should be formulated and uploaded to Gus Cloud. Due to the platform's formatting, she suggested limiting goals to three or four that fall within the goal-themes. In addition to uploading to Gus Cloud, chairs may email copies to the Dean. Once submitted, call the Dean's Office to schedule an appointment to discuss review and goals. Process needs to be completed by June 30.

Strategic Visioning Update: Rpk will be on campus Thursday/Friday, 6/20-21. Currently, focus is on financial model that looks at department/program costs vs department/program revenues. Credit hour production data is being finalized to be included in model. In order to be successful, there is an analytical need to identify programs that generate excess revenue and those programs that are highly subsidized by other programs. This model is geared to provide a better understanding/analysis of programs that fund other programs. As with the former Gen Ed package, CAS is a predominant producer of Pitt Pathway credit hours so credit hour inclusion is good for the college.

The eight prototype teams presented their research and proposals to PLC. All eight presentations were interesting and well-done; ideas generated could help the University move forward in its visioning process.

Dr. Pomatto introduced two ideas for the leadership team to consider:

First, she discussed the need for “professional marketing help” for CAS and CAS departments to develop narratives to tell their “stories.” One possibility is to hire a marketing firm to highlight areas, working with individual departments as well as the College, and to develop a “social media plan.” Discussion followed including availability of resources required to implement a successful social media plan and the need of developing an understanding of what media “works” to attract students before such a plan is designed or implemented. Research on specific target population is needed to determine what impacts a student’s decision and what is effective in bringing a student to PSU.

Second, inspired by the summary she provided at the General Faculty Meeting, Dr. Pomatto is considering putting together a “CAS year in review” as a possible summer project. This review would highlight college accomplishments, establish a historical frame, and provide data to support the college’s successes and illustrate its role in the University; it would be a narrative that tells the college’s story. She feels there is a need to support and highlight the college by documenting its accomplishments. To do so, she may be asking departments to gather data and examples to support and illustrate what the department is doing.

Other announcements / points of interest:

- Two CAS professors, Dr. Jody Neef (Biology) and Dr. Tim Bailey (Geography), have been nominated to KBOR as representatives to the NASSU visit to Kansas. Representatives will be selected by KBOR and announced at a later time.
- ITS will begin rolling out Symantic Virus updates on 6/10. Though updates may be pushed out during business hours, the only interruption for users will be a required reboot of the machine once the update is completed. Lynn and Mark will send out email with further details at end of the week.
- Accreditation funding has gone out; departments receiving accreditation assistance should have received an email with their portion of the allocation specified.

- Spring grad numbers: 1,115 spring graduates, with the following breakdown: College of Arts & Sciences --- 367 graduates; School of Education – 316; School of Technology – 269; School of Business – 163.
- If departments have not done so, please review department pages in the online catalog and submit all corrections to the Registrar.
- Though there will be a permanent budget cut for FY20 (submitted by end of week), currently, enrollments numbers are encouraging as a whole.
- Melinda Roelf has been appointed Interim Registrar.
- Dr. Pomatto will be on vacation next week, from Monday afternoon through Monday, 6/17.
- Major Costello goes on leave on the 10th and will then be in training off campus from 6/28-8/10. Period is one of activity for Military Science with many students in different phases and locales.
- Department of Biology hosted twenty-five students from Fredonia High School as part of med school camp. Visit included cadaver tour.