

Dean's Council Minutes
Sept. 23, 2020

Chairing: Ryan Hinrichs

In attendance: Sandra Jamieson, Jason Jordan, Roger Knowles, Marie-Pascale Pieretti

Guests: Maria Masucci

1. Dean's Council approved the minutes of the 09/16/2020 meeting with no revision.
2. The DC reviewed the "Workload" document developed last year, acknowledged that this is actually a discussion of course release policies not comparative workload, and began a discussion of how course releases should be assigned and prioritized in a time of financial challenge. It is the Dean's assumption that there will be the same number of course releases next year as this year, so the question is how are they allocated? In preparation for the meeting, DC members read Faculty Handbooks from other liberal arts colleges, most of which kept the 20 credit teaching load and simply expected service in lieu of the 6th course. While acknowledging that 2/3 might be an ideal, faced with the reality of 3/3 and current financial challenges, DC needs to design a model of course release that values the work faculty do and moves toward equity in service demands, while incentivizing institutional priorities and values such as research and curricular innovation. DC agreed that a goal was to accomplish and articulate this model without setting up a "bean counting" checklist, which seems unnecessarily divisive.
3. DC discussed Spring planning and the calendar, also for discussion with Chairs and CAPC. The proposal is to follow the lead of other colleges and cancel Spring Break, distributing the days throughout the semester as single day "breaks." Starting later to allow students to arrive later to begin quarantine is more complicated, and the feeling is that the dispersed breaks will be more welcome. The assumption is that we will have at least 65% of classes online, 10% mixed, and 25% fully in person. We will have a testing protocol (pre-arrival and regularly during the semester).

For next week: Handbook revisions following A&S Faculty meeting

Faculty Handbook revisions, VI. Shared Governance - VI -2D renamed course release

New material to take to next division meeting