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Council of Academic Deans

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1-20-2021

## Meeting Minutes

WKU Council of Academic Deans

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**Council of Academic Deans**  
**Minutes**  
**January 20, 2021**  
**1:30 p.m.**

**Voting Members Present:** Greg Arbuckle, Tania Basta, Ranjit Koodali, Chris Shook, Corinne Murphy, Larry Snyder and Susann deVries

**Advisory Members Present:** Cheryl Stevens, Bruce Schulte, Craig Cobane, Ladonna Hunton, Rheanna Plemons, Jennifer Hammonds, Tuesdi Helbig, John Sunnygard, Beth Laves, Marko Dumančić, Rob Hale, Molly Kerby, Julie Shadoan, Chris Jensen, and Amber Scott Belt

**Guests Present:** Robin Pyles, Leslie North, and Maire Blankenship

**I. Approval of December 16, 2020 Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2020 meeting passed without dissent.

**II. Information Items:**

**A. SACSCOC Update**

Associate Provost Hale shared with deans and advisory members that we have received feedback on the initial review of our SACSCOC fifth year report and he has dispersed the feedback to each respective team. Associate Provost Hale is positive about where we are in the process and a successful review.

**B. Colonnade Director Update**

Assistant Provost Kerby shared with deans and advisory members that a search is underway to identify an individual to serve on the Colonnade Committee as an ex officio member responsible for assessment and advocacy.

**C. Academic Program Review**

Associate Provost Hale serves on a state-level committee charged with determining how the Commonwealth will move forward in their oversight of academic program review. He shared with deans and advisory members that WKU submitted a report to the CPE demonstrating that not only have we conducted academic program reviews in the past, but how we will be conducting them in the future. WKU is working towards developing an academic program review process that allows us to not only meet CPE and SACSCOC requirements, but also allows for a process whereby academic programs may address challenges more efficiently and effectively.

#### D. Pass Grade Numbers

Registrar Hammonds shared with deans and advisory members that as of today, less than 1% of the total grades for Fall 2020 have been requested/processed for conversion of a letter grade of B or C to P. Director Helbig shared that the Pass/Fail option has not impacted the overall campus average GPA.

#### E. Provost Search Update

Dean Basta shared with deans and advisory members an update concerning the Provost Search. She encouraged everyone to participate in the process as appropriate.

#### F. Micro-credential/Badging

Dr. Plemons shared with deans and advisory members that for a credential to be awarded it must consist of a minimum of twelve credit hours. She indicated there has been some conversation about offering micro-credentials. In consideration of CPE and SACSCOC requirements, she believes there is a need to develop a policy surrounding the development and offering of micro-credentials and badging to ensure consistency across campus. Associate Provost Koodali, Dean Murphy and Assistant Provost Kerby added their own strong endorsement for developing a policy and thanked Dr. Plemons for leading this discussion.

### **III. Discussion Items:**

#### A. Graduate Admission Standards

Associate Provost Koodali shared with deans and advisory members a need to update WKU's graduate admission standards. He indicated that the Graduate Council are open to an ad hoc committee with the specific responsibility of reviewing WKU's graduate admission standards and how we compare to our benchmark institutions. Associate Provost Koodali asked deans to provide feedback as to who should be invited to serve on this committee.

#### B. Graduate-level Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

Associate Provost Koodali asked deans (or designee) to attend the next Graduate Executive Committee meeting scheduled for February 8 at 2:00p.m. to share their vision/expectations of prior learning assessment (PLA). He emphasized the need to maximize opportunities for potential students. Dr. Plemons reminded deans and advisory members that any program that allows PLAs to meet 25% of the overall requirements must be approved by SACSCOC.

C. Draft WKU Travel Policy

Associate Provost Sunnygard shared with deans and advisory members a draft policy concerning university related travel that requires either a passport or is outside of the United States and requested feedback. After some discussion the deans approved moving the draft forward to the Faculty Senate for review.

D. Draft Student Appeal to Travel Policy

Associate Provost Sunnygard shared with deans and advisory members a draft policy concerning student appeal of international travel decisions and requested feedback. After some discussion the deans approved moving the draft forward to the Faculty Senate for review.

E. Cross-listed Courses and Merging on Blackboard

Registrar Hammonds suggested to deans that if two courses are not cross-listed in Banner Topnet (e.g. held at the same time/location), then the courses must be treated as separate individual courses and cannot be merged in Blackboard as doing so may violate aspects of FERPA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Scott Belt