

Loudoun Campus Council

February 24, 2016

Members Present: Will Straight (Chair, TF), Laura Siko (Secretary, AF), Nathan Leslie (TF), Mary Frances Vito (CL), Nelson Kofie (TF), Mike Polcen (TF), Jenny Horton (CL), Randy Fournier (AF), Nathan Arthur (CL), Bridget Pool (TF), Pablo Urioste (student)

Members Absent: Scott Matthews (TF), William McFadden (ADJ), Tim Eichers (Vice Chair, TF), Syed Ali (Student, SGA President)

Special Guest: Dr. Julie Leidig, Provost

Meeting called to order: 2:00 PM

New Business

- Dr. Leidig discussed her view of the role of community colleges in the U.S. and Loudoun's position at NOVA. Top priorities include providing the first two years toward transfer, conferring associate's degrees, and workforce preparation. Dr. Leidig asked the council to help bring attention to the good things happening at NOVA Loudoun and in Loudoun County. Loudoun Campus is on a trajectory to become one of the largest campuses of NOVA. President Ralls would like to see the campus develop technology programs, but also programs that enhance rural areas of Loudoun County (i.e., viticulture). She notes that one of the largest gaps in service is a lack of a career office on campus that could facilitate job placement, internships, etc.
- Will Straight questioned the notion of "guided pathways" and whether or not the research that supports this curricular approach is applicable to NOVA specifically, considering the size and breadth of our institution. Has the college done any evaluation of NOVA specifically to confirm we are plagued by similar issues? Mike expressed concerns that non-transferable courses of value are being discouraged if they do not have direct transferability to a four-year institution. Nathan expressed concern that our offerings may become too watered down. He also questioned if we are working closely enough with our transfer partners to align curriculum. Bridget discussed discontent among her evening "adult" students with advising services, student "bounce", and lack of guidance. Pablo, our student representative, reports he has had a good experience with advising services at NOVA.
 - Dr. Leidig reports that large institutions experience similar issues with graduation rates as smaller institutions. Large numbers of students who start never even complete a full semester of work. It's not that faculty aren't doing a great job, but the way we were set up in the 1970s is no longer applicable to today's student population. NOVA needs guided pathways more than a small school, where there are more choices and more chances of getting lost. More choices are not always better, as people can become overwhelmed. It is important that the college provide all information about courses being offered, including clear explanation

of transferability of courses that are usually offered at junior and senior levels (at the four-year).

- Will expressed concern that course sections catering to adult students (early morning, evening, weekend) were cancelled prematurely. Dr. Leidig explained that each campus is now being held accountable for staying within a reduced budget. The academic deans made cancellation decisions based on sections that have typically had low enrollment. Our enrollment for Spring 2016 grew and sections were filled more efficiently, leaving more funding to support the Summer schedule.
- The group discussed the academic preparedness of students and how much responsibility for academic success falls to the college, and how much falls on the individual. Pablo expressed an opinion that students must take responsibility for their own success without expecting hand-holding or lowered academic expectations.
- Council would like to invite Dr. Leidig back for another visit later this semester. Date to-be-determined

Old Business

Next meeting: March 14, 2016, 12:30 PM

Meeting adjourned: