

JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY
PROVOST'S COUNCIL

John Day, Kathleen Dean, Lauren Bowen, Jeanne Colleran, Sherri Crahen, Barbara D'Ambrosia,
Dwight Hahn, Jim Krukones, Mark McCarthy, Sheila McGinn, Paul V. Murphy, Karen Schuele,
Brian Williams, David Wong, Sheri Young.

October 25, 2012
Minutes

Present: D. Carter, J. Day, K. Dean, L. Bowen, S. Crahen, B. D'Ambrosia, J. Krukones, S. McGinn, M. Moroney, P. Murphy, K. O'Dell, E. Patterson, K. Schuele, B. Williams, S. Young.

J. Day said that the discussion for today would begin with any lingering questions about orientation and conclude the conversation on that subject.

K. O'Dell spoke about the vocation presentation that is made to all incoming students on the second day of orientation, before they meet with their academic advisors. The presentation, which includes a written "personal journey" exercise, is intended to help students think about their place in the world and see their eventual major as leading to something bigger in their lives. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that students should be encouraged to focus not on their GPA but instead on the opportunities they encounter as undergraduates. K. O'Dell said that he would take all of the ideas voiced at the meeting back to the orientation committee.

B. Williams pointed out that there are no institutional orientation goals. Who "owns" the time between May 1 (students' deadline for deciding which school they will attend) and the third week of their first semester at John Carroll?

E. Patterson said that he uses an approach similar to that of the vocation presentation with military veterans who attend John Carroll. (The program can be examined on the website <http://sites.jcu.edu/veterans>.) The majority of veterans and international students enter the University with the intention of majoring in business. E. Patterson currently is in conversation with Dr. James Martin, Associate Dean of the Boler School, on making the transition smoother for these students.

B. D'Ambrosia asked about the orientation of commuter students. K. O'Dell responded that his office has a program to include them and that he will be attending a conference this weekend with the emphasis on transfer and commuter students.

It was suggested that John Carroll could benefit from a broader institutional orientation, as orientation is really the first step to retention. K. Dean commented that it would help student success rates and retention if students heard the same message from everyone (faculty, staff, etc.), reinforcing the message they have received at orientation. It might be desirable to communicate the message to the instructors in high-frequency classes, including First-Year Seminar and English composition. B. Williams referred to studies that show opportunities are being missed if first-year classes are taught by GA's or part-timers instead of full-time faculty.

K. Dean asked where we are losing students. According to B. Williams, there now is more focus on the second-year experience. M. Moroney is currently looking more closely at the sophomore and junior years and invited anyone interested in the subject to attend a meeting next Friday.

J. Day asked if we needed to include other divisions, offices, or individuals in the discussion of the orientation program. For example, does Residence Life reinforce what students learn in class? Are there ways to link both academics and Residence Life more closely to each other?

K. Dean mentioned that the residential experience will be different next year and also after Murphy Hall reopens in fall 2014 following its renovation. First-year students no longer will be living in Murphy Hall.

E. Patterson asked what other goals might be fulfilled through orientation. B. Williams would like to see, and is working toward, a more structured Admission/Orientation package from the May 1 acceptance date through Streak Week but would like to remain in touch with students through the third semester. M. Moroney said that academics must maintain priority.

The discussion then turned to academic advising. B. D'Ambrosia asked if it would be possible to somehow scan and link the students' "personal journey" and vocation worksheets to their files in Banner. Currently the students keep their worksheets, but there was a general consensus that advisors (both pre-major and major) would benefit from being able to access the information. S. McGinn observed that students not focused on academics are surprised by the expectations and requirements of college classes.

In conclusion, J. Day asked everyone to think about orientation as the first step in retention. Perhaps orientation needs to be a longer transitional process.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.