

**JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY
PROVOST'S COUNCIL**

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

February 14, 2014
Minutes

Present: John Day, Lauren Bowen, Jeanne Collieran, Barbara D'Ambrosia, Roy Day, Kathleen Dean, Dwight Hahn, Jim Krukones, Anne Kugler, Peter Kvidera, Sheila McGinn, Paul Murphy, Karen Schuele, David Wong.

J. Day convened the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

The Minutes of the January 29, 2014, meeting were approved.

K. Dean offered comments about the recent visit to JCU by the HLC accreditation team. She thanked everyone for their support, noting that this was a campus-wide project and responsibility. She reported that the visiting team was pleased with the number and variety of JCU constituents they were able to meet with. In a recent e-mail, Fr. Niehoff acknowledged that we have areas to continue working on, most notably assessment and communication. We should receive a draft of the visiting team's report in about two months, and we can ask for an amendment to any misstatement of fact in the report. The final report will be ratified by the HLC Board in August and thereupon become official. J. Day noted that there was discussion about a possible survey on the assessment experience to obtain community feedback.

J. Day reported on the UPG's recent work on strategic initiatives and related goals, objectives and action steps. There are a total of six initiatives and nineteen goals, each with its own stewards. Seven of the nineteen goals are related in some way to retention.

K. Dean noted the suggestion made at a recent UPG meeting that parts of the strategic initiatives would be well suited for discussion by the Provost's Council, in particular, Goal 11-Objective 46: "Create a viable definition of experiential learning for campus that will encompass classroom, campus-based and community examples." At this point, goal stewards L. Bowen and J. Collieran took over the discussion.

L. Bowen suggested that we first need to determine what we mean by experiential learning - which could include within academic offerings study abroad, service learning, internships, and undergraduate research among other things - and how we might better coordinate these activities. We also need to decide what we want all students to experience as part of their John Carroll education.

Discussion ensued around learning both in and outside of the classroom. It was noted that learning need not always be "for credit," but could also encompass intentional self-reflection. Questions arose as to whether we are creating enough meaningful opportunities for students, the impact of research and internships, and whether we know what students learn from them. It was pointed out that, from a planning standpoint, we need to know what our resources will support.

We also need to examine the Academic Learning Goals to determine their experiential component. It was suggested we review these goals alongside the Student Affairs Learning Outcomes to look for commonality.

K. Dean will provide Council members with an electronic version of the student affairs goals. She asked the group to review the UPG goals and work on definitions for the March 14 meeting.

The discussion then returned to AR 120 after its initial consideration at the January meeting. L. Bowen noted that the general sentiment was to offer some version of the current AR 120 in Fall 2014. A longer-term question is what to offer in Fall 2015, since there will no longer be a common first-year experience by then, and whether we should require all students to take AR 120. J. Day reminded Council members that students have found AR 120 valuable. L. Bowen reported that members of the Academic and Student Affairs divisions will meet next Friday to review the first-year experience.

P. Kvidera described how AR 120 fits alongside the new Core, noting that we don't yet know what components of it students will be taking their first semester. The new Core does not include a common experience of the kind that AR 120 provides. Still to be determined is the use of the FYS noon class time spot, which could accommodate a 1-credit course. While favoring such a course, P. Kvidera noted that other issues needed to be reckoned with, including time and staffing.

Council members discussed whether the components of AR 120 could be imbedded in another course. It was pointed out that, short of requiring all students to take a particular course, you could not guarantee that they would be exposed to the relevant information. Discussion centered on whether the common writing or speech courses in the new Core might be able to incorporate the topics delivered in AR 120. It was also pointed out that these courses have often been taught by part-time faculty, who do not necessarily have our vision of mission. It was suggested that, since AR 120 has a lot of "moving parts" and the present model seems to work, we simply require the course instead of shifting the delivery system. This would also have the advantage of giving students a common experience.

L. Bowen suggested that, if AR 120 could not be embedded in the new Core, cohort advising might be expanded to convey the information currently included in the course. It was noted that declaring AR 120 a requirement would necessitate approval by CAP. Moreover, student advising has traditionally fallen within the purview of teaching, so faculty ought to have a voice in it. B. D'Ambrosia said a CAP decision would endorse and maintain a model whose structure subsequently could be changed.

L. Bowen reported that some members of the University community involved in the discussion of student issues think that the sophomore experience deserves greater consideration and perhaps additional programming as well.

J. Day noted that the February 26 meeting will include a presentation by B. Williams on retention-related issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Lovequist

Upcoming Spring 2014 meeting dates:
Wednesday, Feb. 26 – 9:00-10:30 AM
Friday, March 14 – 3:00-5:00 PM
Wednesday, March 26 – 9:00-10:30 AM
Wednesday, April 9 – 9:00-10:30 AM
Friday, April 25 – 3:00-5:00 PM
Wednesday, May 7 – 9:00-10:30 AM