

JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY
PROVOST'S COUNCIL

John Day, Lauren Bowen, Jeanne Colleran, 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.

January 29, 2014
Minutes

Present: John Day, Lauren Bowen, Sherri Crahen, Kathleen Dean, Jim Krukones, Anne Kugler, Pam Mason, Mark McCarthy, Sheila McGinn, Maryclaire Moroney, Paul Murphy, Karen Schuele, Brian Williams, David Wong.

J. Day convened the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

The Minutes of the December 11, 2013, meeting were approved with one correction.

K. Dean presented an update on the HLC accreditation. The HLC visit will be February 10-12, 2014. K. Dean noted that while members of the Provost's Council may be involved more intentionally in other ways, the Provost's Council itself is not one of the groups the visiting team requested to meet with outright. The visiting team was presented the draft schedule last Friday. As soon as final approval is received, K. Dean will send out confirmation of meeting times and locations.

L. Bowen presented an update on AR 120, noting that, since the last Provost's Council meeting, her group had a follow-up meeting to assess the experience in the fall as a means to look at the program going forward. L. Bowen noted that, while this was not a formal evaluation due to the absence of hard data, E. Hocesvar had provided some data on the students who took AR 120. The students' grades were fine, for the most part. In addition, the instructors indicated that the students were satisfied and found the course meaningful. Students reported that their cohort provided a sense of community and a safe place to ask questions. Especially popular was the scavenger hunt, in which students took pictures of themselves around campus, helping them to navigate the campus and locate resources. Of the students taking AR 120, 11 of 19 are in good standing, 7 are on academic warning, and 2 withdrew.

L. Bowen noted that we need to look at how to move forward in an intentional way. Discussion ensued on the focused attention and "soft landing" provided to student groups, such as the Arrupe Scholars and veterans. It was pointed out that we already have a number of subsets of the first-year class identified in various ways. The question arose as to how many first-year students are totally unaffiliated. Should we let students decide for themselves what they want to join, or should they be pushed in a particular direction? The Borromeo student cohort was singled out as one that may not have a strong JCU group affiliation.

It was noted that we have many different tactical things in place and we need to make sure we aren't duplicating efforts. It is important to inventory what we already are doing, and to step back and see what is working and why, and where the holes are. It was pointed out that it was also important to think about what we want the students to know at the end of their first year, and to have a list of learning outcomes. It may serve us well to go back and think about the student

experiences beginning with the new student orientation and streak week, and moving on through second semester. It was suggested that, since even good students could use help, we offer general support to all students and then also target other populations.

Questions were raised as to whether the role of AR 120 would become large enough to become a curricular issue, and whether something should be done for students in their sophomore and junior years, especially those who have a hard time declaring a major.

L. Bowen noted that the dilemma now was how to market what this course is about for Fall 2015. Should it be for every student, or only those who need it? It was emphasized that AR 120 not be seen as a replacement for First-Year Seminar; instead, what we are proposing follows best practices and recognizes what students need.

L. Bowen noted that she would gather the appropriate parties (including those involved in orientation/streak week, AR 120, and financial aid) to discuss strategy for Fall 2015. She will also invite P. Kvidera, as chair of the new Core Curriculum Committee, to join the conversation. J. Day asked L. Bowen to move ahead with convening the group and to bring back a proposal to the Provost's Council after spring break, perhaps when it meets on March 14. Meanwhile, we could briefly revisit this issue at the next meeting on February 14.

Additional upcoming agenda items were identified as the Forever Carroll campaign, the HLC recommendation of a Retention Committee and retention data, the issue of why we are losing students in the sophomore year, and UPG Strategic Initiatives.

B. Williams noted that, for agenda planning purposes, he would not be present for all upcoming Friday meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Lovequist

Spring 2014 meeting dates: Wednesday,
Jan. 29 – 9:00-10:30 AM Friday,
February 14 – 3:00-5:00 PM
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