

COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES MEETING

Minutes, May 12, 2021 • 1:30-2:50 pm

Submitted by Nino Scarpati

CSPP Members Present: M. Bender, D. Blake, J. Gevertz, S. Govindarajan, D. Hunt, D. Klokis, J. O'Brien, B. O'Keefe, J. Osborn, D. Prensky, L.A. Riccardi, L. Ricketts, A. Scarpati, S. Stallings

Invited: T. Clydesdale, R. Raji, D. Chidick

1. David Blake welcomed again SG Executive President-elect, Roshni Raji, and Executive Vice President-elect, Dylan Chidick, who will officially join CSPP in Fall 2021. David also thanked Suchir Govindarajan and Bryanna O'Keef for their exceptional service, especially with data analysis for Strategy Framework open for a discussions.
2. Minutes of April 28, 2021 meeting were passed by unanimous consent without revision.
3. Graduate and Certificate Program Update provided by Tim Clydesdale, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies

The challenging context for higher education in coming years was discussed. Decline of 15% or more traditional high school graduates is expected over ten years or more. Challenges for higher education institutions include high debt, fierce competition for traditional student cohorts, and continued decline of state support for public colleges.

Results of a study by Simpson Scarborough were shared. Current TCNJ undergraduate students and alums were surveyed. Both groups showed strong interest in pursuing graduate and certificate programs at TCNJ. Organizational leadership, business/data analysis, educational leadership, public policy, post-baccalaureate medical school preparation (MCAT), and DEI were among most popular. Combined degree programs, such as 5-Year (4+1) were also popular, with 90% interest among current students and alums. Both groups also expressed interest in pairing individual certificate programs to achieve "stackable" graduate degrees.

Cost is a significant factor and thankfully, current students and alums perceive TCNJ to be affordable. However, views regarding mode of instruction varied. Current undergraduate students prefer in-person instruction with some on-line components, while alums prefer on-line with minimal in-person contact.

Development of such programs would require negotiation with AFT to develop MOA. Monetary incentives for faculty to develop new programs and/or

collaborations have been proposed with Provost Osborn's support as strategic investments. Some current initiatives for graduate certificates and degree programs were presented as examples.

4.) Updates from Provost Osborn

- Strategy Framework Update - As announced, work on the strategy framework this semester was paused by President Foster. Interviews with consultants continues and announcement is expected over the summer. David Prensky reminded all that the background strategy documents remain available in the shared drive.
- Advising Undeclared Students – A task force is examining advising options, including models and options for faculty and staff roles. The group will also examine best practices to ensure equity and inclusion.
- Taskforce on On-Line & Blended Courses – Group has been charged with engaging the campus community in identifying priorities and practices consistent with mission, demand, and resources.
- Residence Hall Living/Learning Communities – Provost Osborn asked VP Stallings to provide update. Sean explained that the change in first year housing has opened opportunities for a variety of thematic housing options that are being explored with student, faculty, and staff input.

Respectfully Submitted by A. Scarpati