

**Provost's Advisory Council**  
**Thursday, April 25, 2019 Meeting**  
**8:30-10am, Lynch Center, Fulton 515**

**In attendance:**

Laura O'Dwyer (Chair)	Kent Greenfield	Claudia Pouravelis
Joseph Carroll	Gregory Kalscheur, S.J.	David Quigley
Mary Ellen Carter	William Keane	John Rakestraw
Chris Constas	Jonathan Laurence	Patricia Riggan
Thomas Crea	Karen Lyons	Ronnie Sadka
Melissa Dilillo	John Mahoney	Akua Sarr
Joseph Du Pont	Allison Marshall	Billy Soo
Can Erbil	Theresa O'Keefe	Sasha Tomic
David Goodman	Mariela Paez	Thomas Wall

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- 1. The summary of the March 21, 2019 meeting was approved.** It will be sent to the President's Office. All summaries are posted on the Provost's Office website; members are encouraged to share them with colleagues.
  - 2. Student formation on campus: Michael Sacco, Executive Director, Center for Student Formation & First Year Experience.**

Laura introduced Michael Sacco, Executive Director of the Center for Student Formation and the First Year Experience, who is wrapping up his 24<sup>th</sup> year at BC.

Michael began with some background on the First Year Experience (FYE). FYE, which was created 25 years ago, is often thought of as the "orientation office." However, they also develop programming for students throughout their first year. FYE runs seven orientation programs over the summer for new students. BC's orientation program differs from programs at most schools across the country in that BC's summer orientation program runs for three days, Sunday through Tuesday. BC's program is also unique in that there is a comprehensive program for parents that runs parallel to the student orientation programming.

About 2.5 years ago, an evaluation of the orientation programming was conducted to see what was working and where there were opportunities for improvement. A few key areas for improvement emerged.

- In talking with students, it became clear that the Orientation Leader positions carry a reputation on campus of being very prestigious and coveted, with 200-300 applications per year for 42 spots, but that student worried that one needed to be "connected" to get selected for the role. Another observation was that financial aid recipients and students of color were not applying for the positions at a rate in keeping with their presence on campus. In response, changes were made to the application process, removing obstacles to apply, and specifically soliciting applications from low-income students and students of color. Representation in the

application pool of students of color increased to 42% and 25% belong to the Montserrat program.

- In looking at the parent participation rate, it became clear that the structure of the program was an obstacle for some parents. Not all parents or family members, can get away from work, and the expense of travelling may be an obstacle. To ensure that all parents have an equal opportunity to attend, FYE began partnering with OTE and CTP to defray some accommodation and travel costs.
- Technology was an obvious area to leverage. An orientation app was created to help navigate the time on campus, one for students, and one for parents. It also integrates with the welcome week app. There is also a YouTube channel for parents with videos and resources for those who are unable to attend.
- The length of the program needed to be reevaluated. As BC becomes increasingly national and international, with the resulting travel for families, an earlier end on Tuesday seemed sensible. The challenge is to make the program more efficient without cutting too much of the legacy parts of the program that make it special.

A task force will be convened to look at the entire summer program and explore how the various pieces work together and could be more efficient. A pivotal aspect is academics and looking at the time that students spend with their academic advisors and registering for courses, and considering what that will look like once the University moves to Eagle Apps for registration. It is imperative that the high level of support continue, while also looking at ways to improve and streamline the processes.

Mike continued, discussing the Center for Student Formation, which provides mentorship programs, retreats, and leadership and service opportunities. The Halftime program, held at the Connors Center in Dover, is particularly popular among students, and allows them to reflect on their major, career paths, and their passions. The Compass program, led by upper-class mentors, engages incoming first-year AHANA students and provides guidance about how to navigate their first year at BC. The Freshman League is an all-male program designed for first-year men at BC, to introduce them to upperclassmen mentors. The Ascend program is a parallel program for first-year women on campus. The purpose of all of these programs is to engage students in programming and conversations about how they can be their most authentic selves.

He also mentioned collaborations with faculty, staff, and departments across campus to increase formational opportunities for students. One such example is the CSON Scrubs Weekend retreat, which was designed for sophomore nursing students to make connections with each other, faculty, and young alumni. There are a number of similar collaborations that the Center has helped facilitate.

A council member noted that feedback she has received on orientation is that there is not enough of an academic focus outside of the meeting with the academic advisor, and wondered if there could be more academically focused content.

Mike responded that it depends on how you would define academic content. In addition to meeting with advisors and getting registered, students hear from deans, librarians, and other

academic units. He noted that many of the people on the task force will be from the academic side and will explore ways to better balance academic programming with other necessary orientation programming.

A council member noted that you might be able to stretch orientation programming time using technology to push some of the items to online options.

A council member asked if there were course-based retreats.

Mike answered that it would depend on the course and the faculty member but that they are very open to working with faculty to develop retreats. The desire is to partner and develop programs that serve the entire student population and are lasting.

### **3. Kelli Armstrong, Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment.**

Laura introduced Kelli Armstrong, Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment. Kelli began with an overview of work that the Office for Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment (IRPA) has been doing to develop data reports and visualizations that are useful to faculty and leadership. She introduced Kathryn Mackintosh, Director of Institutional Research, and Daniel Riehs, Associate Director for Information Systems. Dan is responsible for building the systems, while Kathryn interprets the results.

Kathryn began with a high-level overview of the data available on the IRPA website. She mentioned the BC Fact Book and brought attention to the visualizations available on the website to navigate through the information. There is an incredible amount of information available, showing how the data has changed over time, as well as information on enrollment, majors, etc. Essentially, all of the large buckets of information from the fact book are available in an interactive way.

An exciting new data project is post-graduation, first destination data. Currently, there are two years of data, and IRPA has created a very interactive tableau visualization that can be explored in a variety of ways. You can explore the data by year, school, major, industry, etc. This could provide a valuable launch pad for conversations on career advising and has proved useful to students and advisors across campus. This information is available through the data portal, which is password protected.

Dan continued, discussing the information available through the data portal. He began by discussing the Departmental Data Reports (DDR), which were developed 10 years ago as a joint effort between IRPA and the Provost's Office. The DDRs include demographic information about faculty and students and provide summary information about courses, faculty, full-time equivalent faculty, grade distribution, as well as detailed data about instructors and courses. There is a companion report, the Trend Report, which provides similar data but shows trends over time.

In 2017, it was decided that a shorter summary report was needed, and the one-page Academic Data Overview (ADO) was created. This has similar data to the DDR but is more concise. This is a relatively new report and feedback is welcome.

Dan concluded, noting that course evaluation reports are in the pipeline. IRPA has been producing a report for CSOM, but that has involved cobbling together multiple data sources. The decision was made to move the information into the data warehouse, which will enable IRPA to combine course information, instructor information, with course evaluation data. The goal is to roll out a report similar to the one created for CSOM to all of the schools in the future.

A council member asked when MCAS course evaluation data report would be available.

Kathryn answered hopefully by the fall.

Kelli added that once the information is in the data warehouse, it will be easier to produce reports going forward.

A council member asked who has access to the data portal.

Kathryn responded that access depends on the role. Everyone has a basic level of access, but the detailed report access is primarily for Department Chairs and Deans.

Billy added that once the new course evaluations come on line, all faculty will have access to that.

A council member asked if the post-graduation survey would be expanded to the graduate and professional schools.

Kathryn answered that there have been many conversations about including the graduate and professional schools, but currently it is a survey just for the undergraduates. There will be continued conversations, as it would be a valuable project for all of the programs to have this sort of data.

David concluded the conversation by thanking Kelli for her work as she departs BC.

#### **4. Provost's report and planning for next year.**

David began by discussing the pending launch of a program at the Shirley Correctional Facility, bringing an undergraduate liberal arts education to the incarcerated. This is the culmination of two years of extensive conversations, working with the Bard Prison Initiative, and anonymous donors.

David gave an update on undergraduate admissions. There were two very successful admitted eagle days, the first was the best attended in the history of BC admissions. Final

deposits will be due late next week (May 1). All data to date suggests a very positive outcome to the admissions cycle.

He continued with an update on the Curriculum Committee on University-Wide Academic Programs, which has approved the Global Public Health in the Common Good undergraduate minor, beginning in the Fall semester. They have also approved a cross-school Certificate in Palliative Care. This has launched conversations about how best to approach certificates that span schools.

David concluded with some date reminders:

- On Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 3:30 there will be an information session, hosted by Fr. Kalscheur and Tom Chiles, to discuss the construction on campus relating to the Schiller Institute over the next 2.5 years. The opening of the Institute's new home is slated for Fall 2021, but the next 12-24 months will feature significant disruptions to a central part of campus.
- Commencement activities will begin on Sunday, May 19, 2019 with the Baccalaureate Mass and continue through the Commencement ceremony on Monday, May 20, 2019. A robust attendance of faculty is encouraged at both events.

Billy Soo announced that the Consensual Relations Policy has been approved by Fr. Leahy. The faculty handbook will be updated to reflect the revised policy.

Billy concluded by announcing the PAC members whose terms have ended and thanked them for their service: Chris Constas, John Erbil, Kent Greenfield, Laura O'Dwyer, Theresa O'Keefe, Mariela Paez, and Patricia Riggins.

He asked that nominations for a new chair be sent to him.