

The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences Gazette

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**Dietrich School Planning and Budgeting
Committee
Minutes of the February 2, 2017 Meeting**

In Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Patrick Cunningham, John Twyning, Michele Colvard, Barbara Vattimo, Carol Mullen, Jessica Hatherill, Reid Andrews, Kathleen Blee, Adriana Helbig, Jim Knapp, Barbara Kucinski, Adriana Maguina-Ugarte, Mat Romick, Shane Redman, Cristina Ruggiero, Sunil Saxena, Anne Weis, Hety Wong

Not in Attendance: Alana Dunn, Kristin Kanthak, Lisa Lang, Svitlana Maksymneko, Lana Sims

1. Review of Minutes

The final electronic version of the minutes of the December 9, 2016 meeting, incorporating one change from the first draft, were moved and approved unanimously.

2. Dean's Update

Dean Cooper shared his and the University's concerns over the impact of the recent Executive Order regarding travel and visas on students, members of the faculty, their families, and the operations of some key programs. The Office of International Services is working with individuals potentially affected by the Executive Order, and he and the Deans are monitoring the impact on recruitment of graduate students, availability of Teaching Assistant to support large enrollment classes for next fall, staffing of research groups, and, potentially, faculty recruitment.

3. Revision of Plan for Pitt

The Dean introduced fall 2016 revisions of the Plan for Pitt that expanded the goals of the Plan to six by adding "Embrace the World". Rebecca Roadman, as Director of Special Projects, produced a mapping of strategies presented in last year's school level plan onto the new structure. This mapping has been used to produce updates to the plan for the current year which allow continuity for reporting on initiatives begun last year. He and the Deans do not believe that major revisions to the Dietrich School Plan would be appropriate this year; last year's plan was well-received, and the incoming Dean of the Dietrich

School will likely have fresh ideas for the strategic plan. Next year's planning cycle may also see changes intended to couple University strategies with school level strategies.

4. Goal 1: Advance Educational Excellence

The Deans had reviewed a draft of Goal 1: Advance Educational Excellence, and Dean Cooper walked the Committee through the document. He highlighted the importance of measuring overall teaching satisfaction, and measures that are being executed to improve this aspect. Two new centers for teaching excellence are being created, and there is a plan in place to consolidate the number of part-time teaching faculty positions into full time positions. Other projects include the TA Optimization Project to improve TA support for large enrollment classes and performance in standalone courses.

The Committee approved the draft of Goal 1, with the acknowledgement that further edits may be made.

5. Goal 2: Engage in Research of Impact

The Dean led a discussion of Goal 2: Engaging in Research of Impact. Much of the conversation centered on the creation of centers that build on current areas of strength that align well with the research goals of the Plan for Pitt.

The Committee approved the draft of Goal 2, with the acknowledgement that further edits may be made.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.