

PROGRESS REPORT

Working Group Name: Structure and Function of the Office of the Provost

Working Group #: 1

Chair: Tim Scott

Date: February 15, 2022

Update on Actions Taken Since Last Report:

This is the initial report. An introductory meeting with each member of the working group was held on February 2. Each member of the working group was in attendance. Time was spent identifying and clarifying the two priorities laid before this group. These include 1) What is meant by academic excellence and what does that mean for the Office of the Provost? And 2) What does the Office of the Provost need to carry out this mandate? The group moved through a brief presentation of ongoing restructuring within the office and continued into a deeper conversation around defining academic excellence.

Next Major Issue to be Addressed:

This group desires clarification around how removing so much of what has traditionally been used to define “academic excellence” (i.e. faculty hiring, faculty performance, and faculty affairs) into the newly formed Vice President for Faculty Affairs (VPFA) shapes this definition. As a result, both the Interim Provost and the VPFA will be in attendance at the next working group meeting to help provide clarity to the group as our work continues.

Defining academic excellence and recommending an organizational structure for the Office of the Provost that will help facilitate meeting this definition are the next major issues to be tackled by this working group.

Problems or Barriers Encountered and Solutions Identified:

Clarity between the Office of the Provost and VPFA’s roles is desirable for the group right now. The leaders of these divisions will be visiting the next meeting to provide some of this clarity.

Deliverables Completed:

Other than working documents and information for the working group’s use, there are no deliverables completed yet.

Timeline for Completion of Remaining Deliverables:

Upcoming deliverables and anticipated dates:

February 28 – Academic excellence and how it will be measured will be clarified for the Office of the Provost

March 11 – Recommendations regarding administrative organization/makeup of the Office of the Provost prepared for the SIC