

Committee on Priorities and Resources  
Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2020

In attendance: Professor Javier Corrales, chair; Professor Andrew Dole; Professor Jill Miller; Professor Monica Ringer; Library Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper Susan Bradley; Director of Financial Planning Thomas Dwyer, *ex officio*; Provost and Dean of the Faculty Catherine Epstein, *ex officio*; Assistant Director of Athletics Kelly Mannix; Chief Human Resources Officer Maria-Judith Rodriguez, *ex officio*; Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Kevin Weinman, *ex officio*; Brooke Harrington '22, *ex officio*; Sydney Ireland '23; Steven Hegarty, recorder

The meeting came to order at 8:30 am.

Proceedings

CPR met to hear working group updates from Catherine and Kevin.

1. Logistics (Catherine)
  - a. The committee is discussing what is necessary to bring students back to campus. The requirements include testing, temperature taking, having places to isolate, and potential limits on the number of people on campus.
  - b. Creative options are being considered, such as adjustments to the semester calendar timing, or splitting the semester into two halves. In the latter model, students would take two courses at a time, and faculty teach one course at a time, each seven-week period.
2. Remote and Hybrid Learning (Catherine)
  - a. In the event classes will not be on campus in the fall, the working group is considering different variations and various possibilities to improve the online experience. This plan is a second choice to bringing students back to campus. Also, they are considering ways to combine in-person and remote students in the same class.
  - b. The remote group includes Chris Durr to represent lab sciences.
  - c. Student preference is to return to campus. This scenario might involve restrictions on leaving campus, agreement to testing, and wearing masks, for example.
  - d. Jill shared that conversations with advisees in different time zones, including international students, prevents some from attending live sessions. She recommended thinking about course sections geared to particular time zones, where practical.
3. Finance (Kevin)
  - a. Membership of the Finance working group includes CPR members Javier, Kelly, Tom, and Kevin, along with Jack Cheney, Chad LaDue, and Lisa Rutherford.
  - b. The focus is on thinking through set of immediate actions/reactions. In early May, Bidy will communicate these shorter term changes.
  - c. Also, the group is thinking through additional steps on how to manage finances as education moves forward, and is estimating the cost of the scenarios for different academic models. With that information, they will look at budget adjustments. Changes may be one-time, limited to short duration, or may require longer term modifications.

4. There have been a number of questions and concerns regarding continuing faculty scholarship, and, in particular, access to science labs. The governor must first lift the current order and allow more than essential personnel at work places. As of now, the restriction is in place until May 4 and may be extended. The college will follow this advisory. From there, the college anticipates a slow return to campus. [On April 28, Governor Baker extended the order to May 18.]

PI's in labs may be among first to return, with safe practices in place such as social distancing. Jill suggested thinking about potential scheduling now. Catherine will bring this topic to science chairs and the science center steering committee.

5. There will be a communication to faculty later today regarding [funding for academic internships and student research awards this summer](#). All work will be done off campus. Awards will be for up to 240 hours, at \$15/hour.

Jill asked about continuing the practice of hiring graduating seniors, particularly those who completed theses, for remote work. The rationale is that some graduating seniors may be well positioned to collaborate on manuscripts, and the opportunity to hire for two or three months, post graduation, benefits faculty scholarship. Catherine will add this to the topics under consideration.

Next week, HR will present results of the benefits survey.

Adjourned 9:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
S Hegarty