

Council of Chair and Directors July 2015

Rationale: While the provost's meetings with Department Chairs and Program Directors have been productive, I would like to alter the format to be more engaging and driven by the needs of these leaders. Following the lead of several other universities I would like to bring together all department chairs, heads of schools, and directors with supervisory responsibility to create a Council of Chairs and Directors to share information, build a community and network, provide important professional development, and inform administrative leadership of the issues that unit heads face at RIT. The Council will be a peer grouping of important leaders at RIT and will provide an opportunity for sharing best practices amongst themselves and recommending opportunities for improved processes to the provost.

With this in mind, it should also be noted that the Council is not intended to circumvent discussions with deans or other supervisors; in fact, the issues discussed must be of such a broad nature that deem them university-wide.

Description: The Council of Chairs is open to all department chairs and heads of schools and serves to share information, build a community and network among the chairs, provide important professional development, and inform administrative leadership of the issues that chairs face at RIT. The Council will be an informal, grassroots body, but due to the size some structure will be necessary. A small number of chairs and directors will make up a steering committee to work with the provost in setting meeting agendas and other plans for the year.

The membership of the steering committee will be one chair from each of the degree-granting units, a dean, and the provost, who will serve as chair. Under normal circumstances, the chairs on the steering committee serve 2-year terms and are nominated by the dean. However, the founding steering committee was appointed by the provost and consists of Paul Craig, Jeremy Haefner, Kim Kurz, Laverne McQuiller Williams, Therese Mulligan, Vic Perotti, Manian 'Ram' Ramkumar, Pat Scanlon, Jay Yang, Steve Zilora, Lorraine Justice, Jim Hall, Tom Trabold, and a CHST rep.

The role of the steering committee will be to

- survey the chairs on a regular basis to determine what are important issues the Council should discuss; and
- recommend to the provost a plan of agendas for the year that the Council will undertake.