

**Minutes: RCFAC – February 10, 2023**  
**TEAMS**

Initial discussion began prior to the call to order regarding the sequestered registration process for Fall 2023.

Noelle asked for clarification of the implementation: would the sequester come into play for the Fall 2023? Dr. Shadduck confirmed the Fall 2023 implementation, noting that training was already occurring for registrar staff and advisors.

Noelle asked about summer WEB courses, stating most upper-division courses at least in her discipline would not run as many students enrolled via the Kent campus. Dr. Shadduck suggested that the sequester might be handled by two listings (one for RC students / one for Kent) for such course; this would preserve the tuition model differences between RC and Kent students, and students could self-register via their existing portals.

8:14 AM - Call to order

**Attendance:** Rachael Blasiman (Chair), Noelle Bowles, Don Gerbig, Denise McEnroe-Pettite, Stephen Neaderhiser, Ding Qunxing, Kasey Ray – VPRC Peggy Shadduck (ex-officio)

Approval of agenda: Noelle, motion/Stephen second

Approval of minutes: Noelle, motion/Stephen second

**Chair's Report:**

The Provost's Advisory Council has met and discussed the Kent Core committee's progress. The Provost hopes to roll out the new Kent Core guidelines by Fall 2024.

Meeting opened for questions to Dr. Shadduck, hearing none, Dr. Shadduck had questions of her own concerning work done to collect data requested by the Provost's Think Tank. Existing organizational charts do not show the reporting structure for faculty. She asked for input on a rough draft she had constructed.

Dr. Shadduck noted the odd positioning of CATS' model in which it does not control either its budget or hiring which run through the RC campuses with campus programs reporting directly to her office without the support staff of other colleges. CATS can feel disconnected because of the location of faculty and the current reporting structure.

The chart has graphics showing a dean at each RC even though many of those CAOs are now combined in shared dean positions. Is that something that should be reflected in the chart? The issue is further complicated by Geauga/Twinsburg (one campus/two locations) and Salem/East Liverpool (two campuses/one county). The question is how to create the best, most adaptable organizational structure for the years ahead.

There was general agreement on the draft chart's accuracy, although Rachael asked where FC Chairs and FCs fit in and offered to assist Dr. Shadduck in revising the graphics for the chart.

The second informational item with questions from Dr. Shadduck regarded the Excel spreadsheet she and RPIE constructed that looks at data across disciplines, campuses, and semesters with some tentative projections. The concern is just how helpful all this will be and if it is open to being misconstrued.

How do we use this data? It is useful for system wide considerations for organization – and for specific disciplines both by campus and across the RCs. Members noted its valuable for academic organization and structure with an eye toward campus decisions in scheduling or systemwide groupings. Deans/unit coordinators may find it a useful tool for decision-making. Kasey noted the data was especially useful for faculty who may be a program of one at their campus to see how the program operates across the RCs.

However, it was agreed that sharing full data may be problematic in terms of interpretation. For example, Kasey remarked that faculty numbers were accurate in terms of TT/NTT/PT teaching but not the total number of resident faculty at a campus or within a discipline. There was agreement that tentative projections should be excluded as these might appear as set realities. Members expressed interest in additional information about faculty and staffing of courses that might help to steer hiring and program needs.

Dr. Shadduck departed for another meeting

With a focus on retention tactics, Noelle noted that faculty outreach in the form of email to individual students can be effective in creating connection between a student and the university.

Stephen expressed concern about hiring and transfers across the RCs – most particularly RC faculty transfers to Kent. Members noted the impact on TT and increasing service load – this is a particular problem for campuses with very few TT members but affects all of us to some extent

Dwindling faculty resource issues:

- Cancelling classes, making students scramble and yet telling students to stay
- Cancellations result in difficulty making load
- How can programs grow without additional faculty
- How can we offer new programs in emerging fields without additional faculty

There was a collective sense that we are being herded toward decisions that have already been made. The Think Tank minutes appeared to have been composed before the meeting itself and did not reflect discussion of the meeting – or its progress. There is suspicion that the move to restructure RC organization is a way for Kent to directly control RC fund balances in order to access them directly.

Deans have apparently been told to present the Fall 2023 RC schedule to their FCs – the whole RC schedule, not just the campus – for approval. If this is so, it will be a CBA violation over which the RCFAC will need to file a grievance. Why are we being asked to approval a document that evolves?

Motion to adjourn: Stephen, motion /Noelle, second

Adjourned – 9:50AM