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Academic Affairs Update September 15, 2017

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Recommended Citation

Parker, Robyn; Mears, Gail; and Vascak, Cynthia, "Academic Affairs Update September 15, 2017" (2017). *Clusters*. 381.

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Academic Affairs Update | September 15

Office of Academic Affairs

Fri 9/15/2017 4:48 PM

To: Campus Communication <campus-communication@plymouth.edu>;

Dear Colleagues:

The academic year is off to a rapid start making it important that we share a few pieces of information and ongoing work that you can expect in the near future.

Summer Task Groups: On Tuesday, we engaged with the summer task groups to explore anticipated and unanticipated challenges, accomplishments, progress made, and the process for engaging in summer work. While final deliverables can be [found here on the cluster's website](#), a more detailed description of the meeting is forthcoming as we organize outcomes and next steps to keep this work moving forward.

Pilot Cluster Support: On Thursday, we gathered Justice & Security and Tourism, Environment & Sustainable Development faculty along with staff from the Financial Services Center, Marketing Communications, University Advancement, Student Affairs, ITS, HR, and Admissions. As a group, we spent 2-hours exploring how to integrate support services and processes with existing functional support across campus for these two clusters. Over the summer, J&S and TESD identified support needs in the areas of communications, projects, partnerships, and operations that are to be completed outside the cluster; as we look to pilot these support functions, we want to ensure that they are appropriately integrated with existing campus processes. A more detailed description of the meeting is forthcoming as we organize outcomes.

Release Time Data: As requested, we're putting together a breakdown of release time in programs by cluster to help as you're designing cluster leadership teams with the goal of reducing release time. You can expect this from us very soon along with a breakdown of undergraduate enrollment, graduate FTE, TLs, and faculty by primary cluster affiliation.

Cluster Connect Software: Progress in developing the software tool Cluster Connect continues. We are now anticipating an end-of-October release and will have a training schedule in the near future for those that did not attend the University Days session. A well-attended preview session was held today through the Center for Transformation. Cluster Connect will provide the capability for faculty, staff, students, and partners to dynamically collaborate, inform, and engage in cluster-activity such as projects. The tool supports the automation of new functions and capabilities such as cluster-project funding proposals and promotion. It is built on a social platform to connect people with projects, with the purpose of encouraging ideas and collaboration into projects and other activities.

Cluster Project Proposals: The [funding process for cluster project proposals](#) will continue with the current proposal process on the cluster's website. You can still propose projects for funding throughout semester. The next deadline for proposals is October 15th. Review the [current process here](#).

Finally, as a reminder, please save the dates for January Jamboree on January 17-18, 2018 and review the Center for Transformation's [save the date email here](#).

Sincerely,

The Academic Dean Team