

ACADEMIC DEANS' COUNCIL MEETING

April 5, 2007

Present: Kay Clayton, Pam Trant, Mike Daniel, Robert Diersing, Allen Rasmussen, Jamie Laurenz, Dann Brown, Alberto Olivares, Ronn Hy, Bill Heenan, Maria Ayala-Schueneman, Carolyn Green, Manuel Lujan

I. Announcements/Discussion/New Business

- A. Plagiarism software was discussed again. Each dean reported the software to be used by their respective college. The deans were encouraged to use Google as well as the software, and they were urged to have their faculty include information in their syllabi regarding the fact that student papers will be reviewed by plagiarism software.

Dr. Clayton requested that Dr. Olivares consider asking the Graduate Council to recommend a process that will ensure that graduate student manuscripts have been reviewed for plagiarism at the department level. She also asked Dr. Ayala-Schueneman to take this to the Faculty Senate for their information.

- B. Mr. Lujan gave an overview of OmniUpdate, a webmaster software he plans to purchase licenses for his division. Others are welcome to purchase licenses as well. The more licenses purchased, the lower the cost.
- C. Gettie Moreno and Randy Hughes distributed information regarding scholarship monies available to each college. It is important that scholarship recipients show their appreciation to donors. A redirected FTE will be considered to assist the Office of Development with donation acknowledgments and scholarship management.
- D. Mr. Lujan asked that the council consider the possibility of requiring scholarship recipients to take 15 hours and lower the currently high GPA requirements. Dr. Clayton asked the deans to consider this request. Academic advisers should be asked to encourage students to take more than the normal load of 12 hours.
- E. Dr. Brown gave an update on the Student Success Task Force. They are currently identifying pitfalls that some students experience from the day they consider attending the university until the first day of class, those experienced the first four weeks of class, and those they experience from then until graduation. They are focusing on challenges that need to be resolved where the most impact for change will occur. They will make a prioritized list, include costs, and submit their report to the Provost by May 10.
- F. Dr. Brown also reported on the True Blue Campaign. He is working with Public Affairs on the design of the banners to be put in front of buildings seasonally to identify the building and activities associated with the building.

- G. The current communication skills requirement, beyond the general education requirements, was discussed. The additional writing requirement is not mandated by the Coordinating Board or SACS. We need to consider whether or not we want to continue with this requirement and whether or not this requirement needs to be consistent among the colleges.
- H. Dr. Clayton gave a report of the recent System Chief Academic Officers and Board of Regents meetings. Dr. Frank Ashley has been appointed Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs replacing Dr. Leo Sayavedra. We can expect the appointment of three new regents some time this spring.
- I. Chancellor McKinney will be visiting campus on Tuesday, April 17. He will meet with the deans and members of the Faculty Senate, as well as others. Times for these meetings will be announced later. Members were asked to speak positively about our challenges, addressing challenges of enrollment optimistically.
- J. Dr. Clayton encouraged the deans to offer reassigned time and start-up funds for research to new faculty.
- K. Tami Sayko and staff from Meyers and Associates from Washington, DC will be on campus on Wednesday, April 11.
- L. The Board of Regents will meet on our campus May 24-25.

II. Old Business

- A. Each dean gave an update on where their college stands regarding the development of the service component of the promotion and tenure guidelines. When all college service components have been approved, the language for the general university service component will be developed.
- B. The deans are gathering information to be considered for a “teaching” track and considering how to measure the criteria for the track.

III. Reports

- A. Dr. Green reported on the System Center. She is prepared to hire a superintendent of building maintenance, is finishing searches in education, has new majors in Marketing and Master of Education, and will begin a new cohort of alternative certification program (ACP) in the summer.

- B. Dr. Brown announced the Freshman Honors Fraternity Initiation on Thursday, April 19 at 6:30 - courtyard of Eckhardt Hall.

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- C. Mr. Lujan reported approximately 250 individuals are registered to attend the upcoming Javelina Highlights.
- D. Dr. Rasmussen announced that members of two national groups will be on campus in the next few weeks — the National Extension Program and the National Wildlife Service.
- E. The Faculty Senate will hold elections for next year's Executive Committee on April 19.
- F. The next Pathways Symposium will be held at Tarleton State University, November 2-3, 2007. Dr. Olivares reported that the Student Service Fees Committee has awarded his office \$5000 to support those attending the symposium.
- G. The General Education Committee has finalized their recommendations regarding the core curriculum except for three hours. The core will be 42 hours and the final three hours will be determined before the recommendation is sent to the University Curriculum Committee for their consideration.

Dr. Laurenz reported that the Interim SACS Report is due Friday, April 13, with the Final Report due in September.

- H. There is a bill before the Texas Legislature regarding the establishment of a College of Engineering in Corpus Christi. The university is working to counter that effort.

IV. Dates to Remember

- A. Visit by TAMUS/Washington Delegation - College of Pharmacy Conference Room 139 - 2:00 - April 11
- B. IEP Presentations - MSU 219A/B - April 13
- C. Chancellor's Campus Visit - April 17
- D. Javelina Highlights - April 21
- E. Third+ Years Probationary Faculty Continuation/Non-continuation Letters Due to Provost - May 7, 2007
- F. Post Tenure Review Recommendations to Provost - May 7, 2007

G. Board of Regents Meeting - A&M-K - May 24-25, 2007