

Academic Council Meeting
December 8, 2010
Library Conference Room A

Present: Mr. David Ray, Dr. Ranelle Eubanks, Dr. Lou James, Dr. Richard Kluender, Dr. Phil Tappe, Dr. Tom Springer, Mr. Brian Hairston, Ms. Pamela Gouner, Ms. Carol Dolberry (for D. Bryant), Mr. Mark Spencer, Dr. Peggy Doss, Ms. Sandra Campbell, Dr. Kelly Bryant, and Dr. Marvin Fawley (for M. Bramlett). Reporter: Ranelle Eubanks.

The Council presented Dr. Richard Kluender, retiring Dean of the School of Forest Resources, a token of it's appreciation for his years of service to the Council and the University.

Mr. Ray announced that Dr. Phil Tappe would be serving as Interim Dean for the School of Forest Resources and the Interim Director of Arkansas Forest Resources Center beginning January 1, 2011.

The minutes of the November 17, 2010 minutes were approved.

The Council discussed retention ideas including the need to hire and retain student-centered faculty. CIS will bring elementary students to their computer labs; the CIS student organization will assist the students in designing Christmas cards. We should also be open to student ideas and comments from the classroom and student organizations.

Dr. Eubanks reviewed a hardcopy of the PowerPoint used by Dr. Lynn Priddy, Higher Learning Commission, at a recent assessment meeting at Harding University regarding what the HLC would be reviewing regarding assessment during the next accreditation visit. A hardcopy of the PowerPoint had previously been distributed to CASAA members.

Mr. Ray gave a higher education legislative update. He reported that NCHEMS is meeting with the presidents/chancellors and will report to the state legislature. There is also a move to eliminate the power of Boards of Trustees (Act 33) and have the state Higher Education Coordinating Board as the sole approval body. There was a discussion regarding the elimination of remediation courses and how this would affect UAM. Mr. Ray noted there is also a move in the legislature for a 120-hour cap on the baccalaureate degree.

Dr. Eubanks distributed an email from Scott Kuttenkuler, Dean of Students, regarding student ID validation for the spring and succeeding semesters.

Mr. Ray noted that every unit should use the University-approved Student Evaluation of Teaching form. A unit who needs a more specific tool for accreditation purposes might need to develop another instrument to be used in addition to the approved form. Dr. Eubanks noted that Early College courses were piloting an online version of the Student Evaluation of Teaching through Blackboard this fall. If this goes well, this online version would possibly be available next spring for general use.

Dr. Eubanks asked Deans to review each of their 8-semester plans for accuracy for the Spring, 2011 semester and to return them to her for inclusion in the catalog.

Advisors are needed for spring registration, January 10-11, 2011. Mr. Ray noted that a large number of students have already pre-registered.

It is important that any last minute C&S proposals be submitted in January if a unit plans for the change to be in the next catalog.

Mr. Ray reminded Deans of the sick leave/vacation policy for Deans/faculty/staff. Mr. Ray noted that in most units there are faculty who have sick leave that will be lost if it is not donated to the Catastrophic Leave Bank. Mr. Ray encouraged Deans to use the form in their packets and distribute to faculty. The form must be completed by December 17.

Mr. Ray and the Chancellor have been making academic unit visits over the last several weeks. Mr. Ray noted the following faculty concerns:

1. Faculty want to override prerequisites; however, prerequisites are in place for specific purposes of which faculty might not be aware.
2. Faculty want students to be able to self-register and self advise. While WeevilNet does permit self-registration, UAM has set limits on who is able to self-register. We will revisit self-registration when WeevilNet is firmly in place.
3. Green cards should be used for *exceptions only*. This does *not* include registering a student who simply forgot to pre-register or who just wants to change classes.

Unit concerns:

1. CIS is reviewing and researching a computer class where the student will be able to demonstrate proficiency and possibly waive taking the class. The course might require the use of graduate assistants and using other computer labs on campus. The course will not be available until Spring or Fall of 2012.
2. Deans would like access to faculty rosters to be able to email a class in case of faculty absence and grade rosters as well as the number of faculty advisors. Carol Dolberry indicated that queries in WeevilNet could be developed quickly for the faculty advisor option. She will research the other two options.

Mr. Ray reminded the Council of the following deadlines:

- Annual Evaluations, December 15 and 18
- Promotion and Tenure, December 15

Mark Spencer reminded the Council of the English major capstone presentations at 2 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, December 9.

The next Academic Council meeting will be January 20, 2011.

The Council adjourned at 4:12 p.m.