

Council of Deans
May 17, 2012

The Council of Deans met at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, May 17, 2012. Steve Runge presided, and the following members were present: Steve Addison, Clay Arnold, Mike Casey, Neil Hattlestad, Elaine McNiece, Rollin Potter, and Laura Young. Tammy Benson represented Diana Pounder and Peter Mehl represented Maurice Lee. Tim Atkinson and John Parrack were present for specific agenda items.

Tim Atkinson, Assistant Provost and Director of Sponsored Programs, presented several policy revisions and the strategic plan for SPO. Key performance indicators have been built into the policy over five years. Hattlestad asked Atkinson for information on how other institutions report grant income. Discussion followed. Runge asked Atkinson to give data to Amber Hall, Interim Director of Institutional Research, to make sure our reporting is consistent. Deans will review the SPO policies and send Atkinson comments or concerns by June 1. Atkinson departed but will attend the June 6 COD to present final policy documents.

John Parrack, Interim Director of International Engagement, shared information about Study Abroad trips. Following discussion on Study Abroad, Parrack stated that he expects GEP enrollment to be down this fall. Discussion about international enrollment and TOEFL issues followed. Glenn moved that the minimum TOEFL remain at 500, and McNiece seconded. This replaces the COD recommendation to raise the score to 550, which was done May 4, 2011. Motion for TOEFL to remain at 500 passed unanimously. Parrack left after the voting occurred.

Arnold presented for format for reporting academic planning information. Discussion followed.

Lori Hudspeth, Academic Budget Coordinator, joined the meeting to discuss data she compiled from the position requests. The deans had decided that Runge should take the information they provided in previous discussions and form his recommendations. Hudspeth's data included Runge's recommendations. Runge spent a few minutes describing issues over the past few years that have contributed to the budgetary problems and salary inversions. He indicated that he will not in this meeting have debates over individual positions but would meet with deans individually if necessary. Runge stated that we need to develop a culture of using our resources effectively to meet our needs and not simply replace positions based on past practice. Following length discussion, Runge reminded deans to make appointments to meet with him if they had specific questions or concerns.

Announcements

Runge: (1) indicated that Category B money decisions would be made by President Courtway today or tomorrow; (2) reminded everyone of a retention meeting called for tomorrow; (3) discussed doing away with requiring activity schedules and the need for faculty reassigned time information, which can be submitted in memo form; (4) said that starting this week he will this week conduct interviews for Director of Assessment; (5) shared information about a visit from Senator Boozman's staff.

Dean reports

Young reported on Registrar search results and the choice to offer the position to Ms. Beth Durff based on her past experience and positive feedback following her campus visit.

Potter reminded all that the Arkansas Shakespeare Festival begins in early June. He shared information about the cast, productions, locations, and ticketing.

Hattlestad informed deans that the early registration deadline is June 15 for the National Conference of Academic Deans.

McNiece updated the council on the search for Director of International Programs. Final candidates will be invited to campus soon.

Mehl reported that 25 College of Liberal Arts faculty met in workshop last week on ways to increase Undergraduate research and department chairs will follow up with a mini-retreat when everyone returns in the fall. Responding to a question from Mehl about the General Education Task Force, Runge said that he met with the group last Wednesday and gave them their charge to start working June 4 for 10 weeks. September 1 is the final deadline for the task force's recommendation to General Education Council.

Casey reported that the China Summit will be postponed and funding methods will be found.

Arnold circulated a draft of the Annual Review of Performance and asked that comments be sent to him.

Runge: (1) announced that a demonstration of Digital Measures workflow software would be held next Tuesday; (2) reminded all that next week's COD would be at 8:00 a.m. in Buffalo Hall to discuss fund raising with development staff.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

csd