

Council of Deans
12/18/2013

The Council of Deans met in regular session at 9:02 a.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2013. Steve Runge presided and the following members were present: Steve Addison, Kurt Boniecki, Art Gillaspay, Jonathan Glenn, Michael Hargis, Maurice Lee, Wendy Lucas, Diana Pounder, Terry Wright, and Laura Young. Gary McCullough was absent. Amber Hall, Director of Institutional Research, was present for agenda item 3. Joanna Castner Post, Director of General Education, was present for agenda item 5.

1. S. Runge reported that the Higher Learning Commission's focused visit draft report was received and was very positive. He stated that the university has 14 working days in which to report any factual errors contained within the report. Discussion followed.
2. The COD minutes of December 11, 2013, were approved with revisions. Wendy Lucas abstained.
3. Amber Hall reported she is working with Digital Measures to (i) make continued improvements to the faculty module and (ii) determine how to best use the capability of the assessment module. Some unexpected challenges with the assessment module have been experienced. She asked that Deans/Chairs contact her to set up a time to meet to discuss data needs of the departments and colleges to be provided by the faculty module. Discussion followed.
4. The Undergraduate Council actions of December 10, 2013, were discussed and approved, with the exception of actions related to a graduate course which K. Boniecki will refer to the Graduate Council.
5. Upper division core program recommendations stemming from the November 21st and December 3rd meetings of the General Education Council were approved. S. Runge stated that this is the first round; however, all upper division core programs must be recommended and approved by this time next year in order to be included in the 2015 Bulletin. Discussion followed.
6. K. Boniecki distributed a draft policy relating to acceptance of transfer credit under the International Baccalaureate Program. Once revised, a draft will be provided to the Undergraduate Council. Discussion followed.
7. S. Runge stated that there is a need to make decisions on how to best approach filling open chair positions. The advantages and disadvantages of searching internally versus externally were discussed. S. Runge also recommended that Deans begin discussing and considering ways in which vacancies can create new opportunities. Further discussion followed.
8. M. Lee recommended that the council provide greater clarity to the meaning of "Programs of Distinction." S. Runge stated that a Program of Distinction is a program that is continuously built, sustained over time, and is ultimately recognized nationally. Discussion followed.

9. Provost's Announcements

- a. The Chief Technology Officer search continues. Two phone interviews are scheduled for this week and on-campus interviews will take place in January.
- b. J. Glenn is chairing the Centralized Scheduling work group. Members have been named, and a target implementation date of fall 2014 has been decided upon.
- c. The Registrar Search has concluded. Becky Rasnick has been appointed as Registrar. An external search to fill the position of Coordinator of Athletic Academic Advising will commence.
- d. The American Psychological Association preliminary accreditation report was positive.
- e. On October 10th, a memo was sent to Council of Deans members requesting that they begin looking at visiting positions for possible conversion to continuing positions. Another copy of the memo will be sent again. A deadline of mid-January has been set. According to the Faculty Handbook, visiting faculty can not continue after the third year of continuous full-time teaching.
- f. Preliminary spring enrollment is up 278 students and 175 FTE's compared to last year.
- g. Visiting artist Patrick Daughtery creates sculptures that last approximately two years and are naturally degradable. They are created from tree saplings in the local area. He is creating a sculpture for the university. Various locations on campus are being considered.
- h. Commencement went well this past Saturday.
- i. A former student, who is currently serving in the Army and stationed in Afghanistan, is planning to come back to school in January. His father contacted the university to request assistance on his son's behalf to be readmitted and begin the registration process for the spring semester. The student received the requested assistance from the Provost's office and Registrar's office and will be starting the pre-nursing program.

10. Member Reports

- a. J. Glenn stated that some end of semester items that have come in through Undergraduate Council need to go to the Board, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education and the Arkansas Department of Education. The late book report will be submitted to the Bureau of Legislative Research before Friday.
- b. W. Lucas stated that Amber Hall will be reporting student enrollment numbers; however, international students will not be included. There are 157 new international students for the spring semester. There are \$30,000 in scholarship funds for students coming in January. Scholarships will apply for one semester and students may renew if the requirements are met. She also advised that Deans should keep continuous improvement plans moving through college committees, and she will send information out to let everyone know what is still needed. In addition, a final evaluation response report will be given out. There is a 57% response rate this semester, with one week still to go. Emails were received during the 12th week of classes stating that students cannot access the surveys. This is because surveys are not available until the 13th week. Discussion followed.

- c. M. Lee reported that the AP student event was cancelled due to inclement weather and has been rescheduled for January 11th. There are 17 applicants for the position of Dean of the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences. The search committee will meet in January.
- d. D. Pounder stated that the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Dean Search committee has narrowed the candidate list to seven. Phone interviews will begin in January.
- e. K. Boniecki stated that the Graduate Dean Search committee met this week and narrowed the candidate list to 9. Phone interviews will begin in January.
- f. S. Runge stated that he was notified that Hewlett Packard has announced an expected addition of 200 new hires in 2014. The jobs added are expected to be higher paying jobs such as managers and programmers. This will have a positive impact on UCA.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

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