Council of Deans

2/19/2014

The Council of Deans met in regular session at 9:03 a.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2014. Steve Runge presided and the following members were present: Michael Hargis, Maurice Lee, Diana Pounder, Gary McCullough, Art Gillaspy, Terry Wright, Steve Addison, Jonathan Glenn, Wendy Lucas, Kurt Boniecki, and Laura Young. The following Student Government Association (SGA) Officers and Representatives were in attendance: Executive President Adam Price, Vice-President of Operations Steven Shook, Senior Class President Allison Rubio, Junior Class President Colby Qualls, Sophomore Class Representative Stephanie Daigle, Freshman Class Representative Emma Baird, and Senator-at-Large Jacob Wickliffe.

1. S. Runge welcomed the SGA visitors. SGA President Adam Price stated that the SGA is aware of the consideration being given to make changes to the Academic Calendar to start classes on a Monday in the future, and he requested that the Council discuss the thoughts behind the considered changes. S. Runge stated that an increase of only three instructional days is being considered, which would include a Monday start, instead of the traditional Thursday start. Some reasons for considering the change included the following: Allowing a full week of class to accommodate classes that meet only once per week including lab classes; increased likelihood of students attending the first day of class; addition of three days allows for more instructional time, which is beneficial when instructional time is lost due to inclement weather; time for a welcome week and possible freshmen boot camp the full week prior to the first week of classes, followed by a “move-in” weekend. Discussion followed. Also discussed were concerns with having a Fall Break, in addition to a Thanksgiving break, as two partial weeks are disruptive to teaching and learning effectiveness. S. Runge asked that the SGA consider the advantages of having a full week off for Thanksgiving, as opposed to a Fall Break. More discussion followed. SGA President Adam Price indicated that he would like to survey students, and L. Young offered to come and speak to students at some time in the near future.

SGA Vice-President of Operations Steven Shook, requested a discussion on the centralized scheduling system that is being planned. S. Runge stated that this is a positive move, as it is currently challenging for students and staff to reserve space. J. Glenn provided an update on the Centralized Scheduling Working Group’s plan and discussion followed.

SGA Junior Class President Colby Qualls informed the Council that the SGA is considering a modified organizational structure, which would include Academic College Representatives. The consensus among Council members was that this would be a very positive move. A. Price asked who should be the point person for the College representative within each college. Council members agreed that each respective college’s Dean would be the appropriate individual. Discussion followed.

SGA Vice-President of Operations Steven Shook addressed whether or not a modified final exam schedule should be considered. The SGA conducted a brief survey of students on this topic and received a neutral response. Some discussion followed.

S. Runge informed the SGA officers that there are challenges in finding out what courses students need during the summer terms. He requested that the SGA begin to look at what questions would need to be asked of students, should a survey be given on this subject. He also asked how best to inform students of course offerings. The SGA officers agreed that Twitter is the choice form of communication for students at this time. Discussion followed regarding courses which may be needed.

J. Glenn asked the SGA officers to update the Council on their previous concerns with regard to space and extended hours in the library. SGA Senior Class President Allison Rubio stated that students have asked if hours can be extended during busy times. The SGA officers agreed that the main concern for students is simply having enough space to study during late hours, and not necessarily a need for extended hours for library services. Discussion followed.

S. Runge informed the SGA officers that the Board of Trustees will be looking at proposed increases in admissions standards changes for the fall 2014 and fall 2018 academic years. SGA President Adam Price stated that he felt this was a good idea. Discussion followed.

1. The COD minutes of February 12, 2014, were approved with revisions.
2. W. Lucas presented the proposed changes to admissions standards and the members were provided a handout on the proposed changes. The changes for the fall 2015 entering class provides for a slight increase in the GPA requirement, from a 2.5 to a 2.7 GPA. It also provides for an increase in the composite ACT score by 1 point. In fall 2018, there is no proposed increase in the GPA requirement; however, there is proposed increase of 1 point in the composite GPA score requirement. Discussion followed. The Council members approved the motion to approve the proposed admissions standards by a vote of 10 for, 1 against, and 0 abstentions.
3. S. Runge stated that the Faculty Senate passed the reformulation of the Student Success and Retention Council, and he provided a handout to the group illustrating the new formulation of the committee. Discussion followed.
4. Provost’s Announcements
5. Applicant training will take place on February 27th, and Council members and chairs should attend if possible.
6. Bear Facts Day is this Saturday, February 22nd. There are currently 693 students signed up, and this is a critical Bear Facts Day as the December event was canceled due to weather.
7. The Leaders of the World Conference will be March 3rd - 7th, and is intended to help build partnerships with government institutions and universities around the world. This will be an annual event that will solidify relationships and generate revenue. W. Lucas stated that she will find out if everyone is invited, or if the event is by invitation only.
8. Dr. Chris Davis interviewed this week. The CTO Search Committee would like feedback from the CoD. Discussion followed and the consensus of the group was unanimously positive.
9. S. Runge and M. Hargis met with John Miller of Falcon Jet last week. UCA will be working towards a Memorandum of Understanding with Falcon Jet to provide educational opportunities to employees of Falcon Jet. Discussion followed.
10. S. Runge stated that he received a question at last week’s Campus Forum, which asked whether this might be the appropriate time to consider reorganizing the colleges, as there are currently five Interim Deans. Informal conversations are ongoing within and between departments. No decisions have been made and none will be made without thorough discussion with all units that may be affected. Discussions will continue until after the 2014-2015 academic year. Discussion followed.
11. Member reports
    1. M. Lee stated that the CHBS Dean candidates have been scheduled for interviews and schedules will most likely be sent out by the end of the week.
    2. W. Lucas stated that a group of college preparatory students from Texas did not make it to campus because of the second snow day. As a result, the Recruiter, Mirt, will be going to meet with them. The AP Science Review was held Saturday, and 130 students attended. She also stated that four candidates are expected to interview for the Athletic Academic Advising position. In addition, Charley Harvey has graciously arranged for the Academic Advising Center to use one of their classrooms all summer for orientation.
    3. K. Boniecki stated that Dr. Karin Jordan will interview on Friday for the Graduate School Dean position, followed by Dr. Stephanie Bellar on Monday. Announcements will be sent out. The IDC announced that its Teaching Portfolio workshops will be held March 4th and 5th. FYS training will be May 5th from 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Please get this information out to Chairs.
    4. T. Wright stated that Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson will be here on Thursday, February 27th. Tickets for the event are sold out.
    5. S. Addison met with representatives of ASU-Beebe and Jeff Pitchford, Director of Transfer Services, last week. He also stated he spoke on “How to Succeed in a STEM Career” yesterday at the High School Guidance Counselor’s Conference in Hot Springs. Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

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