

Council of Deans  
11/6/2013

The Council of Deans met in regular session at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesday, November 6, 2013. Steve Runge presided and the following members were present: Steve Addison, Kurt Boniecki, Art Gillaspay, Jonathan Glenn, Michael Hargis, Maurice Lee, Wendy Lucas, Gary McCullough, Terry Wright, and Laura Young. Diana Pounder was represented by Terry James.

1. The COD minutes of October 30, 2013 were approved as circulated.
2. S. Runge informed the Council of early discussions regarding the possible renovation of McCastlain, which will improve the overall functionality of the building. The renovation is expected to be formally proposed in the Spring.
3. S. Runge provided an update on the upcoming HLC visit. J. Glenn informed council members that a tentative schedule is expected soon; however, everyone should be prepared for possible changes to the schedule as needed. It is expected that a majority of the work will take place on Monday and any overflow will take place on Tuesday, along with the exit interview, which will take place on Tuesday in the Board Room at 9:45 a.m.
4. S. Runge shared information regarding 2014 spring courses required by UCA Core and the importance that enough seats be made available in FYS courses. There are still a good number of freshmen who need FYS courses this spring in order to fulfill the FYS first-year requirement. K. Boniecki stated that data provided by IR indicates that the number of FYS sections available, as of now, is still shy of what will be needed. However, it appears that some departments did not identify certain courses with the FYS attribute. Once all sections are coded correctly, FYS sections may show to be as high as 46; however, there may be a need for as many as 60 sections. S. Runge advised council members to let him know if staffing becomes an issue, because not offering FYS seats is not an option. Discussion followed.
5. S. Runge discussed plans for a Honors College Associate Dean national search. Discussion followed. A multi-department search committee will be put into place, and once finalists are identified, the related department will contribute to the selection.
6. S. Runge provided an update on centralized scheduling. Executive staff has embraced the idea, and a broad group of individuals across campus will be pulled together to explore software, logistics, and rules.
7. Provost's Announcements
  - a. The 2015–2016 Academic Calendar is proposed with a Monday start and a 16-week semester. This will provide the opportunity for a full week prior to the start of class for students to move in, get acclimated, and participate in any other necessary activities. Fall 2014 will be the last semester to start on a Thursday.
  - b. Exit meetings with both the ABET and APA accreditation teams were positive, recognizing the progress made and the work done to retain accredited status.
  - c. Engineering Deans and employers of engineers met at Axiom headquarters to discuss engineering in Arkansas. Arkansas falls short in the number of engineers produced. UCA will seek approval for an Engineering Physics program which will produce graduates who can contribute to the engineering workforce needs in the state.

- d. LSU representatives visited campus last week and discussed ways to help us get a Boot Camp program in place which will get students up to speed before coming here as Freshmen.
- e. There was a \$15,000 budget transfer yesterday to help with student research funds, which is up \$5,000 from the previous year. Colleges and Departments are required to match at 50% and student research/travel rules will remain unchanged. Gary McCullough will work on getting an announcement out to undergraduates and graduates on availability and eligibility.
- f. Approximately \$850,000 of capital equipment and project funding requests were approved, addressing most top priorities submitted by Colleges. Funding should be used only for the items requested, and any residual funds should be returned for use in funding items further down on the list.
- g. Summer school distribution calculations are expected to be completed by the end of the week and will be provided to Colleges upon completion.
- h. Discussion with Taggart Architects regarding the Nursing/CSC Building project is limited in scope for now. Factors such as funding and enrollment will play a role.
- i. Honors College Challenge Week was successful.
- j. Fall Career Fair is being held today.
- k. According to Amber Hall in Institutional Research, the university is up by 178 students from the same time last year.
- l. Info night will be held in Jonesboro on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, and Texarkana on Thursday, November 14, 2013.
- m. Bear Facts Day is this Saturday, November 16, 2013.
- n. Pay attention to emails sent out from Human Resources regarding new online training opportunities.
- o. Dr. Mary Garnica was named Advanced Practice RN of the Year by the AR Nurse's Assoc.
- p. Damion Echols event is next week. There is a lot of debate surrounding this event. However, fundamentally this is a question of academic freedom of the faculty who chose him as a speaker for the visiting artist series. I have an obligation to defend academic freedom, and I will. We can't shy away from controversy at the expense of academic freedom.

## 8. Member Reports

- a. S. Addison stated that following the visit of the representatives from LSU, he is confident that UCA needs to provide a bootcamp for upcoming freshmen. Bootcamp will be hosted this coming summer, and council members are invited to observe. The CCA Guided Pathway to Success application was submitted; however, the State was not selected for the grant. Technical assistance will be provided anyway. Also, on December 7th, the CLA will host AP students on campus. The CLA, COB, and Writing Department are considering a computer camp this coming summer. UCA was selected to receive \$160,000 each year for 3 years, to fund a summer Cyber Discovery Program.
- b. M. Lee announced that Joyce Elliott spoke last week to a Political Science class on "Politics and Religion". The Humanities Fair will take place on November 14, 2013, at the Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center. 170 students are expected for this event which will include lectures and awards. T. Wright stated that Damion Echols will be on campus Monday. The balcony will be closed and they are working closely with University Police. Also, the only Fulbright chapter here on campus. There is a need to get it reorganized and back on track.
- c. J. Glenn informed council members that a Student Success Symposium Handout is coming soon.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.