

Council of Deans  
11/5/2014

The Council of Deans met in regular session at 9:18 a.m., Wednesday, November 5, 2014. S. Runge presided, and the following members were present: Jonathan Glenn, Michael Hargis, Peter Mehl, Diana Pounder, Jane Ann Williams, Jimmy Ishee, Steve Addison, Laura Young, Stephanie Bellar and Terry Wright. Maurice Lee and Kurt Boniecki were not present.

1. The CoD minutes of October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 were approved with revisions by a vote of 10-0. P. Mehl abstained because he was not present at the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.
2. S. Bellar led a discussion regarding the university's policy requiring an admissions exam for acceptance into graduate school. It appears that several other state institutions in Arkansas do not require an admissions exam. Discussion followed, and council members considered the possibility of moving away from a university-wide policy in favor of letting each program determine their own requirements with regard to admissions exams. Council members were asked to continue to consider this and discussion on the topic will be revisited at a later date.
3. S. Runge provided an update on academic space renovations and moves which were proposed at the May 2014 Deans Retreat. A handout was distributed to council members, which indicated the current status of all planned renovations and moves. A majority of the planned renovations have been completed, while the remaining renovations are ongoing. Discussion followed.
4. Provost's announcements:
  - a. Council members were asked to consider the best process for approval of Study Abroad proposals. In previous proposal cycles, the proposals were reviewed and approved by the CoD prior to being reviewed and approved by the Provost; and council members were asked to consider whether approval by the CoD is necessary. Discussion followed and council members agreed that following approval of the proposals by the related academic dean, the proposals should go straight to the Provost for review and approval.
  - b. Council members were provided a copy of the Faculty Salary Review Committee's list of prioritized new funding requests, which will be presented to SBAC on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. An overview of the priorities was provided, along with a brief explanation of the committee's recommendations. Discussion followed.
  - c. The timeline for the College of Education Dean search has been revised. The deadline for receipt of applications is now January 5, 2015, and interviews will begin in February 2015.
  - d. Conway Public Schools is preparing to invest in a STEM program (CSTEM) to emphasize science and math in its elementary and middle schools. S. Runge met with Charlotte Green, GT/AP Coordinator for the school district, and discussed the interest in

partnering with UCA to provide a mentorship experience. A meeting to continue these discussions will be scheduled soon.

- e. The Alley Scholars Summit, led by a couple from Pine Bluff, AR, is held annually for minority students with the purpose of encouraging them to enter college and complete a degree at an institution of higher education. UCA will participate in the 2015 summit.
  - f. Bear Facts Day was held on Saturday, November 1st, and approximately 500 students attended.
  - g. Trustee Victor Green will meet with Academic Affairs this afternoon. The topics to be discussed include Academic Affairs' new funding requests, IT plans, and UCA Online. [Special circumstances resulted in V. Green being unable to attend. The meeting will take place at a later date.]
  - h. Trustee Brad Lacy will meet with Academic Affairs on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. The topics to be discussed include the pipeline of students in the Computer Science Program, the retention rate of last year's freshmen class, and the Enrollment Management plan including an update on the 10 new dedicated advisors.
5. Member Reports
- a. P. Mehl stated that a Holiday Open House was held at the Faulkner County Museum this past Saturday. Kim Little's American Nations Course in UCA's STEM Residential College participated as a service-learning project.
  - b. D. Pounder stated that she attended the PARCC Summit. PARCC assessments will be administered to 11<sup>th</sup> grade high school students beginning spring 2015 and will be used by colleges for placement (as opposed to ACT subject test scores which have been previously used for determining placement). Discussion followed.
  - c. S. Bellar notified council members that the Arkansas Department of Higher Education states that the decision of whether or not to require a capstone/thesis course in graduate programs is at the university's discretion, and she encouraged council members to give some thought to this. She also notified council members that Sponsored Programs will be offering NIH webinars through the end of this week.
  - d. T. Wright stated that author William D. Lindsey visited the Department of Communication last week, as part of the Artist in Residence series, to discuss his new book; the UCA Forensics team debated the alcohol issue which appeared on the ballot in Tuesday's election; Sister Act: The Musical was a sold out event last week; the Conway Symphony Orchestra had its debut performance last week; the Blue Man Group was sold out for both performances; and faculty in Creative Writing, including T. Wright, will be giving readings at the Oxford American annex in Little Rock this week.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.