

Council of Deans
March 11, 2015

The Council of Deans met in regular session at 9:13 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Steve Runge presided, and the following members were present: Jonathan Glenn, Michael Hargis, Maurice Lee, Diana Pounder, Jane Ann Williams, Kurt Boniecki, Stephanie Bellar, Jimmy Ishee, Terry Wright, Steve Addison and Laura Young. Zachary Helms, Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President, was present for agenda item number one.

- 1) Z. Helms informed council members of two events that the SGA would like to plan in an effort help improve student success and retention at UCA. The events suggested include:
 - Student Research Week – The SGA suggests an annual event in which an entire week is devoted to student lead research presentations and activities. This event would include research presentations and activities representing all colleges/areas at the university. Discussion followed, and consensus among the CoD was in favor of this event. J. Ishee, S. Bellar and J. A. Williams will meet with Z. Helms and his committee to further discuss this event.
 - Registered Student Organization (RSO) Bootcamp – The SGA suggests an annual bootcamp event for RSO's that will provide information on available funding through the Student Activity Fee Allocation (SAFA) committee and instruction on the "best practices" for successful student organizations. The SGA will be contacting advisors and deans to further discuss these efforts. Discussion followed.
- 2) The CoD minutes of March 4, 2015, were approved with revision by a vote of 10-0-1. S. Bellar abstained due to having not been present at the March 4th meeting.
- 3) S. Runge led a discussion on mid-term grades. The reporting of mid-term grades for students of freshman classification is required and is primarily used as a retention tool. The reporting of mid-term grades for freshmen only can prove challenging, particularly when a class is made up of students of a variety of classifications. Discussion followed regarding potential ways to improve upon the process of reporting mid-term grades which included:
 - Increasing the range of students who receive mid-term grades;
 - Ways to better utilize existing programs to assist in providing mid-term grades and academic progress (Grades First, Black Board, Banner and Map Works).

Special cases, such as courses that report only a small percentage of the overall grade by mid-semester, were also discussed. Following all discussion, J. A. Williams and K. Boniecki agreed to visit with Chris Davis (Chief Technology Officer) and Thomas Bruick (Assistant Director for Retention Initiatives) to gather a better understanding of the

interoperability of Banner, Grades First and Map Works. The topic of mid-term grades will then be readdressed at a future CoD meeting.

- 4) S. Runge provided council members with an overview of the Faculty Handbook changes proposed by the Faculty Handbook Committee this year. A handout of the changes was provided. The proposed changes will be shared with the Faculty Senate membership at its March 19, 2015, meeting. The changes will then be considered by the Faculty Senate at the April 14, 2015, Faculty Senate meeting.
- 5) The annual Dean's Retreat will be held on Tuesday, May 5th and Wednesday, May 6th, at the Elizabeth House on campus.
- 6) Provost's Announcements:
 - The CoD will meet with new UCA Board Trustee, Joe Whisenhunt, next Wednesday, March 18, 2015. A meeting will soon be scheduled with Board Trustee Sheila Vaught.
 - A UCA Online marketing meeting will take place on Friday with Cranford, Johnson, Robinson and Woods (CJRW).
 - Ongoing Searches:
 - On-campus interviews with the finalists for the Director of Admissions and Enrollment Services position will take place next week.
 - On-campus interviews with the finalists for the Director of Online Learning position will take place today and Friday.
 - On-campus interviews with the finalists for the College of Education Dean position will be completed by the end of the day on Thursday. The search committee will meet on Friday afternoon to rank the finalists.
 - 320 students (740 total guests including parents) attended the May 7, 2015, Bear Facts Day; and of those, 78 applied to UCA.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.