

Council of Deans
February 17, 2016

The Council of Deans met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2016. Steve Runge presided, and the following members were present: Jonathan Glenn, Michael Hargis, Vicki Groves-Scott, Kurt Boniecki, Stephanie Bellar, Jimmy Ishee, Terry Wright, Steve Addison and Laura Young. Peter Mehl, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, attended in the absence of Maurice Lee.

- 1) The CoD minutes of February 3, 2016 were approved.
- 2) Action items of the UCA Core Council were considered as follows:
 - UCA Core Council recommendation for approval of new course EDUC 2310 as a variable credit course in the UCA Core. A motion to approve was made and seconded. Discussion followed regarding the intent for this course to be completed over the span of two semesters with the classroom instruction portion taking place in the first semester and a peer-mentoring portion taking place in the second semester. A motion to table the initial motion for approval was made, seconded and approved. K. Boniecki will follow-up with Jacob Held, Director of the UCA Core, regarding a need to clarify the logistics of how this course will be delivered.
 - UCA Core Council recommendation for approval of new course ENGL 1345. A motion to approve was made and seconded. Discussion followed. The CoD voted to approve the recommendation.
 - UCA Core Council recommendation for approval of the addition of GEOG 3315 to the upper-division UCA Core. A motion to approve was made and seconded. Discussion followed. The CoD voted to approve the recommendation.

K. Boniecki provided an overview of the February 2, 2016 UCA Core Council information items.

- 3) S. Runge provided an opportunity for a follow-up discussion from last week's meeting at Pulaski Technical College (PTC) regarding the PTC University Center. PTC will be conducting a survey of their students in an effort to identify in which programs PTC students are most interested. CoD consensus is to delay a follow-up discussion until the survey results are received.
- 4) Provost's Announcements:
 - UCA Board of Trustee member Elizabeth Farris will meet with the Council of Deans on March 9, 2016 for her first quarterly meeting with Academic Affairs. The meeting will be followed with a lunch.
 - The 2016 Deans Retreat will be held May 2nd & 3rd at the Elizabeth House.

- The provost will be meeting with the departments in both CHBS and CNSM this spring. All meetings have now been scheduled.
- The provost is continuing to hold meetings on the topic of retention and graduation of African American male students. He will meet with Kaylon Bradford and SGA President Zach Carter today and with UCA graduate Dr. Barrett Petty tomorrow. This is a challenging issue nationally among higher education institutions. The provost will be inviting UCA's African/African American Studies program into these discussions, as recommended by a faculty senator at the February 9th meeting of the Faculty Senate. The Office of Diversity and Community and the Academic Advising Center have also been previously involved in some of these discussions. The overall goal of these discussions is to gain information that will assist in the development and implementation of initiatives to close the achievement gap between students of color and the general population.
- Emails are expected to go out this week regarding the roll-out of Grades First for both freshmen and all student athletes. The use of Grades First will assist advisors in identifying those students who are at-risk and may require additional guidance.
- S. Runge attended the ADHE Concurrent Credit Advisory Committee meeting in Little Rock yesterday. The committee plans to develop and propose new state policy regarding issues related to both budget and delivery, quality and supervision of concurrent credit courses for Arkansas institutions by September of this year.
- S. Runge attended the ADHE Student Success Task Force meeting in Little Rock yesterday. Topics discussed included:
 - support for colleges in developing and implementing wrap-around student support services that propel students through completion;
 - support for colleges strategic use of data, with a focus on creating statewide data systems that track students through their postsecondary educational experiences and into the labor market; and
 - creating financial incentives to encourage both institutional and student behaviors that increase student persistence and completion.
- The Arkansas STEM Coalition will hold its regional meeting on the UCA campus on February 25, 2016.

5) Member Reports:

- J. Glenn stated that all curriculum changes for the 2016/2017 graduate and undergraduate bulletins have been received and will be published once processed. Course frequency specifics will be removed from the bulletins to address concerns that course frequency information tends to get outdated quickly and also because the new two-year build out of the course schedule will provide more consistent and updated course frequency information. J. Glenn also provided a handout of services offered via the Summer Start program. This information will

be included in a mailing to students from the Academic Advising Center regarding summer registration.

- P. Mehl stated that a committee has been formed to work on a new program promoting civic engagement among UCA students. The program will begin initially in the fall as part of an honors course. Council members may let P. Mehl know if they are aware of faculty who might be interested in getting involved with the program.
- V. Groves-Scott stated that the UCA Diversity Advisory Committee met recently. A diversity climate survey will be distributed to campus this week. Deans will have the opportunity to request the data results for their respective colleges.
- K. Boniecki reminded council members that sabbatical leave applications for spring 2016 are due to the deans by the end of the day tomorrow. The applications will then be due to K. Boniecki by Thursday, February 25th. Also, faculty evaluations of department chairs and college deans open this week and remain open through spring break.
- S. Bellar stated that:
 - the university will, for the first time, have representation at the McNair Scholars Research Conference at the University of North Texas;
 - summer stipend applications have been received and are under review; and
 - the Graduate School has met its KPI goal for the number of graduating graduate students; and strategies are being implemented to support graduate students in their progression toward graduation.
- T. Wright stated that the production of Mama Mia was held this past week as part of the Reynolds Performance Series. The next production will be Saturday Night Fever on February 28th.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.