

University of Central Arkansas
Council of Deans
Wednesday, October 21, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

The Council of Deans met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on October 21, 2020 via Zoom. Provost Patricia Poulter presided and the following members were present: Stephen Addison, Angela Barlow, Kurt Boneicki, Jonathan Glenn, Victoria Groves-Scott, Michael Hargis, Jacqueline Nancy Reese, Patricia Smith, and Tom Williams. Guest of the meeting: Jeremy Gillam and Warren Readnour

1. Welcome: Provost Poulter welcomed members and introduced Warren Readnour and Jeremy Gillam.
2. Guest Discussion: Warren Readnour, General Counsel and Jeremy Gillam, Director of Governmental Affairs and External Relations: Mr. Readnour and Mr. Gillam shared information regarding academic freedom on campus as it relates to faculty, staff, and the classroom. Members were asked to encourage faculty to refer to the Faculty Handbook which is reflective of the language in the AAUP Academic Freedom guidelines.
3. Action Items
 - a. COD September 30, 2020 Minutes: Minutes were approved as presented.
 - b. Proposed Changes for Latin Honors Residency Requirement: Patricia Smith presented a proposal regarding Latin Honors Residency requirements and moved to accept the language as proposed by the University Honors Council. Dr. Boneicki seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously. A motion by Dr. Addison and second by Dr. Smith was made for the changes to go into immediate effect with the proviso that any current students who were negatively impacted could graduate under the existing requirements. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Discussion Items
 - a. Business
 - i. Provost Updates
 1. Anyone receiving a positive COVID-19 test is encouraged to report the test result to UCA's Student Health Center to assist with tracing.
 2. Outreach: Congratulations to Lesley Graybeal and Hanna Hanshaw for adapting the Community Action Poverty Simulation

into a virtual format during the pandemic as well as developing guidelines for conducting in-person simulations during COVID-19.

3. UCA will have a 2021 spring break. There will be voluntary COVID-19 testing events following the break. There will also be voluntary testing following winter break.
 4. In-state tuition/fee waivers will remain in effect for spring 2021.
 5. Thank you to the expanded schedule working group.
 6. Additional KN95 masks have been ordered by purchasing.
 7. UCA will hold an in-person fall commencement. Members received a tentative schedule. Faculty are not required to attend; but if they choose to attend, registration will be available.
 8. In recognition of the ways that COVID-19 may have affected faculty in the areas of evaluation for tenure and promotion, a draft of a statement for inclusion in departmental and college tenure and promotion guidelines was reviewed. Focus: faculty have the opportunity to include a separate COVID Impact Statement in their tenure and/or promotion portfolio . This draft has been reviewed by legal council. Effective beginning AY 2021-2022.
 9. Congratulations to the School of Nursing and College of Education for their encouraging accreditation visits. Accreditation for the College of Business will begin in January.
 10. Congratulations to the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences on their successful suffrage events and pandemic panel discussions.
- ii. Academic Colleges Collaborating with Admissions: Dr. Smith shared ways the Honors College is closing the gap between applying and enrolling students. She encouraged members to utilize the Argos report and work with Admissions to contact students as they are admitted to the university via letters of introduction and support. Letters can be tailored for specific colleges and departments.
- iii. Instructional Methods-Summer/Fall: Dr. Glenn asked the deans for advice on "emergency event" instructional methods for Summer and Fall 2021. Because most Summer 2021 courses will be fully online, the default conversion will be from TRAD to DEEV, with the ability of departments to adjust the instructional method if necessary. Since, on the other hand, a broader range of instructional methods is encouraged during Fall and Spring semesters, the default conversion will be from TRAD and DEEV to HYEV, with the ability of departments to move classes to TRAD or to DEEV.

iv. College Updates: Dr. Barlow announced that the Graduate School has gone live with Slate.

5. Important Dates

- a. October 28: COD 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
 - b. October 31: Honorary Degree Nominations Due to Provost
 - c. November 1: Annual Reports due to Provost
 - d. November 2: Sabbatical Leave Applications Summer/Fall 2021 due to Provost
 - e. November 11: COD 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
- AY20-21 Initiatives
 - Instructional and Campus Continuity
 - Diversity, Belonging, Inclusion, and Equity
 - Assignment of Instructional Duties – Finalize
 - BA-BS Discussions and Decisions
 - Momentum Year (includes Meta-Majors)
 - Policy and Process Improvements
 - HLC Assurance Argument Update
 - Strategic Plan Refresh
 - G2C Expansion on Campus

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.