

University of Central Arkansas  
Council of Deans  
Wednesday, January 29, 2025  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 am  
Wingo 214

MINUTES

1. Welcome: The Council of Deans met on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 9:00 am in Wingo 214. Provost Hargis presided and the following members were present: Kurt Boniecki, Mike Casey, Victoria Groves-Scott, Michael Mills, Patricia Smith, and Tom Williams. Kari Naylor attended for Stephen Addison, and Darshon Anderson attended for Nancy Reese.
2. Guest Discussions
  - a. Online Course Compliance Review: Amy Hawkins, Assistant Provost of Teaching and Academic Leadership, presented an update on the progress as well as the future plans of the online course review process. Dr. Hawkins also shared expectations for acquiring a new Learning Management System (LMS). The three options under consideration are: Blackboard Ultra, Canvas and D2L Brightspace. Provost Hargis asked that the Teaching Technology Advisory Committee (TTAC) begin the outreach campaign plan now to obtain feedback.
  - b. Associate Dean Evaluations: Jacob Held, Associate Provost for Academic Assessment and General Education, presented evidence and a request to suspend the Associate Dean evals. A motion by Kurt Boniecki and a second by Mike Casey was made to stop all Associate Dean evals that are maintained by the Office of Assessment. Discussion ensued. The motion carried. The Deans will manage the annual evaluation process and ensure feedback from appropriate constituencies within their academic units. Annual evaluations will be kept on file as required.
3. Action Items
  - a. December 11, 2024 COD Minutes: A motion by Tom Williams and a second by Patricia Smith was made to approve the minutes from December 11, 2024 as written. The motion carried, 6 in favor and 2 abstentions.
  - b. January 16, 2025 Graduate Council Items: A motion by Michael Mills and a second by Mike Casey was made to approve the Graduate Council items from January 16, 2025 as submitted. The motion carried.
4. Discussion Items
  - a. Strategic Plan Update and Next Steps: Three individuals have been identified and tasked with supporting the Strategic Plan efforts on campus: Laci Lyons, Shawn

Charlton and Bryttani Bartlett-Montgomery. They will be launching a website and seeking input from the campus through a survey in the next few weeks.

- b. Phishing and Cyber Attacks: Members were asked to include Cyber Attack awareness in their communication efforts with students, staff and faculty to reduce the number of cyberattack occurrences. Also, please invite Trevor Seifert to one of your Chairs meetings so that he can discuss this ongoing and important issue with your team.
  - c. Vector Training: The deadline is next Wednesday, February 5, 2025. Only 71% of the Academic Affairs division has completed the required Vector training. Spring adjuncts are required to complete the training by the February 5 deadline. Contact Christina Lammers in HR for details or report access.
  - d. Newsworthy Events and Activities: Members were asked to be more proactive with sharing and promoting newsworthy events and activities. Ideally two to three weeks' notice should be given to Fredricka Sharkey.
5. Unit Updates
- a. From Patricia Smith: Applications are down for the Honors College possibly due to the new system and new questions.
  - b. From Vicki Groves-Scott: State Review Audit is scheduled for February 18-21, 2025.
  - c. From Kari Naylor: Arkansas STEM Posters will be displayed at the Capitol tomorrow.
  - d. From Michael Mills: We are monitoring the pause on the Federal Grants situation very closely.
  - e. From Kurt Boniecki: The consensus from the Faculty Salary Review Committee identified COLA and market equity adjustments as top priorities.
6. Important Dates
- o [Academic Timetable 2024-2025](#)
  - o February 5th: Academic Affairs Leadership Team, 9:00 am
  - o February 12th: COD, 9:00 am
  - o February 27th: COB Admissions Event-11:30 am-3:00 pm
  - o February 28th: CoSE Admissions Event-9:00 am-1:00 pm
  - o February 28th: Board of Trustees, 10:00 am
  - o March 7th: School of Communication Admissions Event-9:00 am-1:00 pm
  - o April 5th: Bear Necessities Day

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:00 am