

-APPROVED-

Academic Council Minutes

Gold Room – Bibb Graves Hall

January 6, 2010

Present:

Dr. Rebecca Turner, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Mr. Vinson Houston, Acting Vice President for Information Technology
Dr. Joe Delap, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Misty Cobb for Dr. Frank King, Associate Vice President for Distance Education
Mr. Kevin Houlton for Dr. Tim King, AVPEMSA
Dean Bill Carr, College of Graduate Studies & Continuing Educ.
Dean Bill Fielding, College of Commerce & Business Administration
Mr. Terry Marbut for Dean Hammett, College of Education and Professional Studies
Dean Sarah Latham, College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Dean Earl Wade, College of Arts and Sciences
Ms. Kelly Osterbind, Registrar
Dr. Jay Ketterer, Director, International House and Programs
Mr. Don Killingsworth, Director of Government Relations
Dr. Alicia Simmons, Director, Institutional Research and Assessment
Dr. Dan Krejci, Faculty Senate President

Absent:

Dean John-Bauer Graham, Library Services
Dr. Louise Clark, Assoc. Dean, College of Commerce & Business Administration
Mr. Joe Whitmore, Director, Institutional Support Services
Ms. Patty Hobbs, Director, Public Relations
Mr. Greg Bonds, Assistant Director, Athletics, Compliance
Mr. Bryant Whaley, SGA President

Old Business:

1. Minutes of the December 2, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.
2. Dr. Turner and Dr. Simmons presented a draft policy on Substantive Change for comments, updating and future discussion.
3. There were no other items of old business.

New Business

1. Dr. Simmons reported on spring 2010 enrollments. The head count and CHP numbers are up at the time of the report. Dr. Turner reported that a lack of heat in campus buildings, especially residence halls, is creating a crisis that warrants leniency in attendance policies.
2. Dr. Krejci reported that Faculty Senate awaits word on summer work load and summer pay, as well as tenure and promotion issues. A future meeting of the Academic Committee of the Board of Trustees should be coordinated with the Faculty Senate's Executive Committee. Zimbra email issues are being taken up by the Welfare Committee. Targeted messages from the office of the VPASA and VPIT need to go out to faculty and staff concerning the importance of attending Zimbra training. Mr. Houston reported that a FAQ web page will soon be available.
3. There was no report from SGA.
4. Dr. Turner presented copies of letters sent to SACS/ COC concerning current substantive change issues, namely, distance education and off-site delivery of programs or portions thereof at levels requiring notification.
5. Dr. Turner reported that a Faculty Research Grant RFP is being prepared for distribution. She also reported that professional development funding had been awarded to faculty with high IDEA participation rates. Dr. Ketterer suggested that feedback to students concerning their responses compared to their classmates' would be useful.
6. Mr. Marbut asked if the evening final exam schedules could be revised to allow more time between exams, ideally 30 minutes.
7. Dr. Turner reported on discussions taking place concerning a desired increase in the numbers of scholarships offered and offering them earlier. A letter is to be generated automatically offering a scholarship for tuition and books upon completion of an application, for qualifying students (based on ACT scores). ACT scores are being acquired for future recruitment purposes. Dr. Simmons is developing scenarios involving increased enrollments.
8. Dr. Delap presents appeals for early reinstatement from two students who are currently on dismissed status and have been granted early reinstatement before. Both appeals were denied. The students are to be advised to consult with Mr. Andy Green, Director, Academic Advisement, upon their return (after waiting one calendar year).
9. Other: Dr. Latham asked if the Admissions Committee could consider establishing a minimum GPA requirement for admission of transfer students. Dr.

Turner recommended that Dr. Simmons assist in that effort by providing an impact analysis.

Announcements

Ms. Cobb announced that the 24/7 distance-learning support line is up and running. Also, DE is sponsoring a webinar on sustainability on January 13 at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Houston announced that the new email system will be fully implemented this month.

Dr. Ketterer reported on an international student's recent psychotic episode requiring hospitalization. He asked that faculty and staff closely monitor and report on international students' behavior. International students can be granted a one-year medical incapacitation waiver, after which time they must leave the country. Dr. Turner commented that some psychotic behaviors are known to develop among young adults, which is exactly when they are attending college.

Dr. Krejci announced that Faculty Senate will meet on January 25 at 3:15 p.m. in the Library.

Mr. Killingsworth announced that the state legislative session has begun. Also, a state gubernatorial debate being held on campus in April will be televised. A run-off election for House District 40 representative is coming up.

Ms. Osterbind thanked the faculty for getting grades in. Forms are being provided to students dropped from classes for non-payment. She also requested that catalog revisions be submitted as soon as possible.

Dr. Simmons provided a Federal Grants opportunity worksheet being employed to help develop the grant proposal process.

Mr. Marbut announced Technology Fairs scheduled for February 2 and 9.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Delap, AVPAA