

Academic Affairs Council Minutes
September 17, 2009

Richard Berry	Mary Nelle Brunson
Paul Davis	Brian Murphy
James Standley	Carrie Brown
Mel Finkenberg	Larry King
Randy McDonald	Mike Stroup
Mike O'Rear	Buddy Himes
Steve Bullard	Tony Duben

1. Turnitin.com

Randy McDonald

Randy McDonald gave an overview of our current Turnitin.com usage, by college. The report showed the majority of users are from the College of Liberal and Applied Arts, and the College of Education. The report also showed that twice as many students than last year are using this program.

Dr. Berry explained the cost of the software, which is determined by enrollment and asked them to think about the value. He asked the deans to encourage more faculty to use this. Sharon Brewer will check with TEC to find out if new faculty are advised/trained on Turnitin during orientation.

We are committed to the program this year however, it was decided to conduct a survey to determine future worth.

2. Bachelor of General Studies

The possibility of offering a Bachelor of General Studies was discussed last year, Dr. Berry asked Dr. Murphy, Dr. Duben, and Dr. Himes to look at this issue and report back at a future meeting.

3. Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation

Information on the Piper Professor was sent to the deans, fifteen a year are awarded state wide. Nominees should be submitted to Dr. Berry by October 23rd, a selection committee will then be formed and ONE nomination sent forward to Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation.

4. Centers/Institutes

A list of potential institutes and labs covered under policy A71 had previously been distributed, Dr. Berry asked deans to advise him of any changes to the list by October 15. A formal proposal must be submitted for all centers/institutes on the list, regardless of how long it has been established, due by December 15, 2009 and will be submitted to January board meeting. Carrie

Brown will email the list and guidelines and forms to the deans and it will be made available on the Academic Affairs web page.

The information obtained will be used as part of a summary of research funding to be presented to the board.

5. NMR Update

SFA have an opportunity to purchase a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer (NMR) using research development funding. This proposal will be presented at the October board meeting for approval to purchase. The NMR will be housed in the current nursing building.

6. Use of cross over hours in graduate hours

There are currently situations when hours from prior matriculations are requested to use on a new matriculation. We have been able to “trick” the system in Plus however Banner is unable to do this. Mike O’Rear stated this does also affect financial aid. This is a particular problem with students completing teaching certificates.

Dr. Berry stated that we need more information, particularly from Ed Leadership and School Psychology and report back.

7. QEP Update James Standley

Dr. Standley has visited the colleges and VP’s - information will be going out to the entire campus, including students, asking for feedback. We have expanded the steering committee for QEP and will have representation from all over campus and the community.

At the next Deans Council (9/30) the first item to be discussed will be Graduate bulletin, Dr. Standley asked the deans to bring the person responsible for making changes to bulletin with them.

Assessment Update Larry King

Dr. King reported that last week we administered MAPP to 231 students in ten sections of English 131, this is standardized test for VSA (voluntary system accountability) 213 were freshmen. In spring we have to administer to at least 200 seniors, Dr. King asked the deans to think of classes where we can administer this to at least one class in every college.

Reminder that core assessments need to be entered in to TracDat for spring 2009 by Friday, September 18. October 15 administrative support material due in TracDat.

Dr. King reminded council members that assessment should aim at continuous improvement of university operations. “Closing the loop” by using assessment results to develop action plans for improvement is essential.

An audio seminar is available on Wednesday 23rd September at 1:00pm in Kennedy Auditorium on assessment, this will be valuable to faculty and academic staff.

8. FYE

Dr. Brunson reported that we are adding approximately twenty more members to the First Year Experience committee, predominately faculty.

The early alert program was introduced in the new format for the fall. Dr. Brunson asked the deans to encourage faculty to use it.

SACS

There have been a number of slight changes to the process, we can now submit on CD for substantive change. Dr. Brunson asked the deans to encourage department chairs to contact her as soon as they know they want to make substantive changes.

We received approval from the Coordinating Board for the Master Arts in Art Education and in Student Affairs and Higher Education.

9. Policies

Computer and Network Security (D-8.1)

This policy has been reviewed by Paul Davis and the policy committee, changes have been made to conform with our auditor's report. Dr. Murphy moved to approve the policy, Dr. Duben seconded the motion and all were in approval. The policy will be submitted to the Board at the October meeting.

Indirect Cost Recovery, Distribution and Use (A-51)

This policy was approved by the Board in April however, a couple of changes have been made by Carrie Brown. It was decided that further discussion was needed and this would be brought back to future meeting and sent to the Board in January.

10. Any Other Business

A press release will go out today, we will report our highest enrollment in history – 12,845, higher than fall 1990 little over 7% increase from last year. Retention has also increased.

11. Constitution Day

George Mehaffey from ASSCU and Steven Galatas professor of Political Science, campus director

for American Democracy Project, which is a national project part of AASCU attended the meeting as part of Constitution Day.

Dr. George Mehaffey is the Vice President for Leadership and Change at AASCU, and an expert in civic engagement, he is on campus today to talk to administration, faculty and students.

Dr. Mehaffey explained that the ADP is on 220 plus campuses nation-wide. There are seven national initiatives underway and SFA are part of three of them, the stewardship public lands project, future initiative national debt budget deficit and this summer, in conjunction with Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, joined e-citizenship.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 30, 2009 – Deans' Council.