Minutes

College of Liberal and Applied Arts College Council

February 12, 2014; 2:00 p.m.; Boynton 209

Attending: Dr. Linda Bond, Chair; Dr. Ray Darville, Dr. Louise Stoehr, Dr. Al Greule, Dr. Ben Dixon, Dr. Alan Baily, Dr. Steve Taaffe, Dr. Dana Cooper, Dr. Latoya Wesley, Dr. Elizabeth Spradley, Dr. Sharon Eaves, Dr. Lee Payne, Dr. Denise Millstein, Dr. Kim Rich-Rice, Dr. Eralda Lameborshi. Ex Officio: Dr. Marc Guidry (Associate Dean).

• Dr. Bond called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

• A motion was introduced to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, with one correction. (Congratulations, Dr. Spradley!) The motion carried unanimously.

• Report from Faculty Senate president Dana Cooper: Dr. Cooper shared with the Council a *Daily Sentinel* article of February 2, 2014, as well as her response. The article and Dr. Cooper’s reply addressed the relationship between faculty salaries and faculty retention at SFA. These are matters of great concern to current and prospective SFA faculty and Dr. Cooper’s report exemplified the Senate’s spirited engagement with the issue.

Dr. Cooper also informed the Council of upcoming visitors to the Senate. The March meeting will feature Judy McDonald on the “Future Students” program. In April, the Senate will host Fred Hayes who will speak on a proposed new elementary school.

• Report from Associate Dean Guidry on Student Success Initiative and student retention:
  o Student Success Initiative (SSI): SSI is a predictive software package from Educational Advisory Board (EAB) that helps identify specific courses which determine whether a student will succeed in her major field. The package is designed to aid advisors in encouraging the student to choose a major in which she is likely to succeed, thereby contributing to student retention. Presumably this means advisors will be nudged to encourage students with a low probability of success to opt-out of their particular program.
  o The Provost is monitoring usage of SSI and wants to know how to encourage more use.
  o Representatives from EAB will offer a presentation entitled, “Future Students, Future Revenues,” on March 8.
Student retention is a serious concern for this College in particular. CLAA enrollment this spring is down by 130 from last year; and over the past five years enrollment has dropped at a rate of approximately 100 students per year. This is not to imply that SSI will overcome the retention challenge.

The SFA Pre Law Experience, being piloted this summer, is another initiative by the college to develop a connection with potential students of high quality. The schedule is being finalized. Also, a website has been set up dedicated to the event. Approximately 1,400 high school students in the region have been contacted by mail; however, registration opened only recently so prospective enrollment is not yet clear. The event needs 25 enrollees to make, and 35 to break even.

- College Unit Goals revised plan and merit rubric: The College Unit Goals have been revised and the College is working presently on a rubric for awarding merit. College Unit Goals are keyed to the same categories as merit, i.e. “teaching,” “research” and “service”. The overall college assessment includes another category, “resources”.

- Bright Ideas Conference: Submissions to the Bright Ideas Conference are due Friday, February 18. The event is Thursday, May 1.

- ORSP Grant Workshops and Mini-grants: Henceforth, “creative” projects no longer will compete with (“cancer-curing”) hard science research. Mini-grants are available, too, and are not being utilized to the available capacity.

- Summer salaries will remain the same this year.

- May-mester, summer I and II, and fall schedules will be available online, February 28.

- Announcements: There has been no word yet from the university committee regarding this year’s curriculum proposals. March is Professional Social Work Month. Mass Communication was pleased to host a “Leaders of Tomorrow” event this month; the focus was social media.

- Meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.