The meeting began at 2:30pm in room 273D of the Ferguson Building. People in attendance included the following:

Dr. Kwame Antwi-Boasiako (Government)
Dr. Freddie Avant (Social Work)
Dr. Mark Barringer (History)
Dr. Ray Darville (College Council)
Ms. Dixie Groll (Dean’s Office)
Dr. Marc Guidry (Associate Dean)
Dr. John Hendricks (Media Communication)
Dr. Mike Martin (Multidisciplinary Programs)
LTC David Miller (Military Science)
Dr. Brian Murphy (Dean)
Dr. Mark Sanders (English)
Dr. Robert Szafran (Social Analysis)
Dr. Jeana Paul-Ureña (Languages & Communication)
Dr. Jerry Williams (Psychology)

Dean Brian Murphy introduced Dr. Bob Szafran to provide an update on the new core curriculum. Dr. Szafran reported that the committee is now receiving submissions for courses to be included in the new core curriculum. Dean Brian Murphy delivered a status report on the implementation of the College’s strategic plan in four areas: fundraising, advising, interdisciplinary programs, and skills development.

Dean Murphy announced that a list of computers eligible for replacement has been received in the Dean’s Office. He requested that, when forwarded to departments, chairs should first verify that a computer targeted for replacement is still in inventory. According to policy, PC computers can be replaced with another PC (but without monitor) and Mac computers can be replaced with another Mac. If a department elects to exchange a PC for a Mac, the department must cover the difference in cost. The list will be circulated to departments next week.

Dean Murphy called attention to several issues involving promotion that warrant review. First, which promotion criteria apply to a candidate (i.e., the current ones or the ones in place at last promotion)? Second, should the time gap be factored into consideration when determining whether a promotion standard has been fulfilled (e.g., a publication was generated the first year after the last promotion but the second publication did not occur for another fourteen years)? Dean Murphy requested that chairs bring these two issues to their departments for feedback and input. The third promotion issue relates to annual faculty evaluations. Since promotion requires a rating of “excellence” in two of three categories (for Associate Professor) or in all three categories (for Full Professor), should the annual evaluation instrument be amended to include a rating of excellence? The chairs decided not to do so. Finally, Dean Murphy informed the chairs that the Provost is still examining departmental peer review definitions and that the university is contemplating a shift from portfolios for tenure/promotion to a PDF format.

Associate Dean Marc Guidry and Dr. Jerry Williams presented a revised proposal to launch a Research Apprenticeship Program. After discussion, the chairs elected to support the program, with a Fall 2013 start-up date. Dean Murphy brought forward a revised draft of the College’s unit goal assessment plan. The document was considered line-by-line, amended, and approved. Associate Dean Guidry distributed a proposal to establish a study skills option for students recently placed on suspension. Currently, students are allowed to attend summer school and will be removed from suspension if successfully passing three courses with a grade of “C” or better. The proposal would allow students the opportunity to substitute a study skills course for one of the content-based courses. Dean Murphy would submit this proposal to the Deans Council for formal approval.
Dr. Jerry Williams discussed the possibility of inaugurating a Faculty Seminar Series at which faculty within the College would present their research and receive input. The chairs endorsed the proposal and scheduled Fall 2013 for the program’s inception. Dean Murphy alerted the chairs to a likely change in university policy with respect to the awarding of emeritus status. Pending approval by the Board of Regents, a new university policy will require each academic unit to develop a process by which nominated candidates are reviewed at the departmental level. Dean Murphy suggested that departments should begin considering how they will accommodate the requirement.

Dean Murphy distributed the draft of next year’s foreign policy conference. It will focus on the relationship between North and South Americas. All faculty members within the College will be invited to participate. Dean Murphy noted that reassignment standardization for assessment coordinators has not yet been finalized. He appointed Drs. Kwame Antwi-Boasiako and Mark Sanders to formulate a draft policy. Dean Murphy next asked Drs. John Hendricks and Jeana Paul-Urena to review the structure of last Fall’s Freshmen Convocation and to propose any modifications to improve the event. Dean Murphy concluded the meeting with an update on the revision to the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) and its possible implications for the College.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50.