

## Meeting Minutes – March 29, 2017

**Present:** Drs. Ric Berry, Todd Brown, Debbie Pace, Mark Sanders, Christina Sinclair, Louise Stoehr, Hans Williams, Courtney Wooten; Mr. Jonathan Helmke, Mr. Scott Shattuck, Ms. Joann Black

Dr. Pace opened the meeting at 4:00.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the March 10, 2017, meeting were approved and will be posted on the UASC website.

Updates:

- The council discussed the remaining meeting times for this spring semester.
- The SACSCOC Institute conference will be held this summer, July 16-19, in Dallas. Dr. Pace encouraged council members to consider attending if possible. She will request travel support from the provost similar to what was provided last year.
- Dr. Wooten updated the group on recent developments from the Core Curriculum Committee Assessment Committee. Subsequent discussion also addressed differences in focus between assessing on *value added* or *competency*, as these are two very different approaches to evaluating student learning. It was noted that at the legislative level, competency is the primary focus whereas university faculty often take a more philosophical view.

Planning and Recommendations:

- Dr. Pace suggested that the council draft a broad statement of vision or philosophy for the university's assessment processes. The group discussed the idea of a vision that includes both *value added* and *competency* components. Council members agreed with Mr. Shattuck's suggestion of the need for rebranding and emphasizing "evidence-driven improvement" as the goal of SFA's assessment processes.
- Dr. Brown shared that the College of Business has revised most of their assessment plans, focusing on two main areas of emphasis, *efficiency* and *effectiveness*. The college has moved assessment of most of its student learning objectives to capstone courses. This approach eliminates the impression that individual courses or faculty are responsible for assessment outcomes and instead seeks to evaluate effectiveness of the overall curriculum.
- Similarly, it was noted that results of core assessment should be handled at the institution level rather than at the course level. The group agreed that although some of the core objectives are more naturally addressed within some disciplines, many of them can be emphasized in courses within several disciplines.
- The council noted that since budget processes for next fiscal year are underway at this time, it would be best to make any restructuring recommendations as quickly as possible to ensure that any potential budgetary needs can be included in requests for FY18.

- With a goal of increasing faculty ownership in assessment, Dr. Brown suggested several options for incorporating rotating faculty fellowships into the structure of SFA's assessment processes. These options were partially modeled after similar positions at Texas Woman's University (reference presentation slides from SFA's October Assessment Conference posted on the UASC website).
  - Council members discussed a variety of models, possible funding options and workload reassignments that might be needed for such a structure. All agreed that staggered terms for fellows would probably be beneficial.
  - Dr. Wooten shared information available on the websites of the University of Delaware and the University of Rhode Island. She noted that both institutions utilize variations of structures utilizing faculty fellowships.
  - The group noted if similar models are to be utilized at SFA, additional discussion will be needed regarding an application and selection process as well as types of compensation (workload release and/or stipends).

Next Meetings:

- April 7, immediately following the university strategic planning update meeting in the BPSC Theater.
- April 26 (4:00) and May 12 (3:00)

Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm