

Academic Affairs Collaborative Team

Minutes

February 12, 2026

1. Academic Portfolio Optimization

Forrest Lane

- FL presented a Hanover Research document from June 2023 and asked how new programs should be brought forward and what the process should be.
- The Provost confirmed that all proposals should route through the dean and then to this group.
- Need to communicate the process to faculty; a faculty forum may be helpful.
- A list of current programs should be compiled and scored.
- MG noted that five current programs will likely close.
- MIS program concerns: low enrollment, lack of program management, and overly complex structure.
- Discussion on master's program credit hours: all currently require 36 hours at faculty request; other institutions offer 30-hour programs.
- The Provost is interested in benchmarking master's degree structures at peer institutions.

2. Program Inventory, Enrollment, and Partnerships

- The university currently has a large number of undergraduate and graduate programs.
- The President's focus is on enrollment; partnerships may accelerate growth but reduce institutional control.
- Previous exploration included a Livingstone/Angelina partnership; further discussion with deans is needed.
- Consider offering pathways for students completing associate degrees to finish four-year degrees.
- Need to discuss expansion opportunities and gather dean input.
- Explore tuition reductions or packages to improve competitiveness.
- Clarify Dr. Weaver's top goal.

3. Graduate Program Growth and Strategic Planning

- Need to identify strategies for expanding graduate degrees.
- Need a document outlining growth and management plans by end of Spring semester.
- Mental Health and FNP programs should be added to consideration.
- Increased funding is available for rural health initiatives.

- PA program identified as a strong student need.

4. Additional Academic Opportunities

- Todd Brown met with John Hendricks regarding podcasts; interest in this area is increasing.
- Explore opportunities to grow degrees at off-campus locations.
- Concern raised about multiple programs offering statistics courses; suggestion to centralize under the College of Sciences & Mathematics for efficiency.

5. Curriculum Processes

- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee includes faculty from every college and reviews all undergraduate proposals.
- Dean approval is required.
- Approximately 700 curriculum proposals are submitted annually; most are expected to be approved automatically.
- SAIR and OIE should have representation on this committee.

Attendees: Todd Brown, Forrest Lane, Marc Guidry, Jordan Barkley, Stacy Hendricks, Tricia Cain, Sharon Brewer