

Academic Affairs Council

January 27, 2021

1. **May 2021 Commencement**

Erma Brecht

Erma gave an update on May 2021 commencement, we currently have 1,622 graduates. This will necessitate additional ceremonies, to meet social distancing guidelines of 275 graduates or less per ceremony.

Erma showed the committee three options, everyone agreed with option B we will move forward with seven ceremonies. As with previous commencements, faculty are encouraged to attend, but not required.

2. **Training Dual Credit Advisors**

Raquel Skidmore

The Student Success Center would like to work with each college on some advising initiatives for dual credit students, identifying an academic advisor in each college to allow to make connections. There will be some training involved that would not apply to other students. Dr. Guidry stated if we actively advise these students it would help recruit them to SFA. There must be better communication between admissions and advising so that advisors know what is being offered at a high school.

3. **Update on transfer of Course Work**

Marc Guidry

Dr. Guidry reported that the Coordinating Board fields of study have been stopped, instead we have pathways, giving students a clear pathway from high school into a four-year-program.

4. **APS**

Karyn Hall

Karyn gave an update on APS, we are in the final stages and ready to launch the platform. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> the project office is coordinating workshops for accessibility, starting with deans, associate deans, and then chairs.

5. **Eight-week course Evaluations**

Marc Guidry/Karyn Hall

Karyn shared the preliminary draft document with half term survey results, this is still a working document. The course evaluation process was used to add seven prompts to obtain responses from students, we received a 50% response rate.

We will ask the same questions this semester but would also like to ask faculty questions about teaching. This will be discussed with faculty senate and obtain their approval.

Karyn explained that the fall questions were somewhat compromised because some students were moved into an eight-week section and didn't know. The same situation happened with some faculty, suddenly having to teach an eight-week course when they

had planned to teach sixteen-week. We would like to continue the survey over the next few semesters to obtain some reliable data and look at trends.

6. **Any Other Business**

Dr. Bullard received a proposal from Teaching Excellence Awards Committee, to defer ceremony for 20/21 recipients. The colleges will still name recipients, and the stipends will be provided. A joint ceremony for 2020 and 2021 recipients will be held in November.

John Calahan reached out to each department asking for their focus for their assessment plan in May 2021, this information is needed by February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Approval for faculty positions has been going on behind the scenes, with the most critical things at the top of our list

The board meeting will be looking at budget for FY21 and projections for FY 22. There will be multiple avenues to communicate this, including some town hall meetings.

Update on Provost search, down to 11 candidates, planning interviews late February/March.

The new Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Brandon Frye will start on February 4, 2021.

7. **Deans only**

Pauline Sampson

Dr. Sampson had sent the graduate admissions policy to the deans, asking to add a statement that proof of degree for SFA seniors can come in the first semester of graduate school. This was approved by the deans, and will now go to Policy Committee.

Deans were asked to send their summer budgets to Alisha by February 26<sup>th</sup>.

The summer course schedule will go to deans on February 15<sup>th</sup>, and post by February 26<sup>th</sup>