

Academic Affairs Council

February 8, 2023

- 1. Office of Strategic Analytics & Institutional Research Website Update** Karyn Hall
Karyn reported their website has been updated through UMC. The update reflects the new name of the department, which is consistent with other institutions and reflect more accurately the way the office works: Office of Strategic Analytics & Institutional Research
- 2. Annual Academic Program Review 2023 communication/support** Karyn Hall
Karyn provided a handout, overview and schedule for the 2023 Academic Program Review, deadline May 31, 2023. Sharon will arrange meetings per department/program and will liaise with each dean to agree on the best format for each college.

Two workshops are planned and will be available in person or via zoom:

March 3 at 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

May 4 at 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

As we move into our affiliation with the UT System the APR policy will be transitioned into a Handbook of Procedures (HOP)

- 3. Data Governance Steering Council** Karyn Hall
Karyn demonstrated how to access our Data Governance site on the OSAIR webpage. The members of the Steering Committee are:
Karyn Hall
Andrew Dies
Mike Coffee
Rachele Garrett
Marc Guidry
Judi Kruwell
- 4. Adding New Courses to Core Curriculum** Marc Guidry
Dr. Guidry explained that courses to be added to the core curriculum must go through the Core Curriculum Committee, a faculty led committee chaired by Dr. Christina Sinclair. All voting members are faculty and there are a few ex officio members. There are courses that have repeatedly gone up for inclusion and repeatedly been denied.

Dr. Guidry stressed that the Provost's office is completely neutral and does not vote, however some of the requests are not appropriate and are trying to attract more semester credit hours or entice more students to the core. This is not a good way to recruit students into your programs.

Many of the requests that had been denied are too narrowly focused, or too technical; they must have a real breadth of knowledge.
- 5. Faculty Not Turning in Rosters** Marc Guidry
Dr. Guidry advised that faculty are repeatedly failing to turn in their rosters. Multiple emails were sent from the registrar's office. In fall 2022 after the 12th class day and 78 faculty had not complied. In Spring 2023, the number increased to 113. Dr. Guidry stressed faculty MUST turn in their rosters because if they are not in the

system the State has no record the class was taught, resulting in no formula funding or financial aid. He asked the deans to talk to chairs and faculty and stress that this cannot continue. There is also the same issue with faculty syllabi, which is a state requirement.

6. **Honors**

Mike Tkacik

Dr. Tkacik provided information about the Honors program at SFA. We recruit very good students and Dr. Tkacik meets with parents and students throughout the summer. With regard to supervising honors contracts, we have a number of faculty who help with that, but it is increasingly becoming a challenge. This semester we may have three students scheduled to graduate who will not have 24 hours because we cannot get faculty to work with them.

Dr. Tkacik said he is simply asking for a "place at the table" when reviewing the workload policy to address this extra work that faculty do not get paid for. We need to revisit these demands and find a way to compensate faculty who are doing this. Could we reward them with professional development? The honors students we attract are usually core complete.

Megan Weatherly said there had been discussion previously about compensation for UGR, this is a similar issue.

7. **6% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)**

Lorenzo Smith

Dr. Smith reminded the group that he is always looking at our strategic mission, academic integrity is our first priority. Looking at elimination of low producing programs, promoting high producing programs and investing in advising our priorities.

Dr. Smith said he didn't know how much more Academic Affairs can help itself without external resources. Research shows that students choose a university primarily for academics and financial aid. Our budget does not reflect what our students demand. There is only so much we can do.

The president approved a 6% cost of living allowance across the board, questions had been asked should the \$5.5m promised by UT System be exclusively for faculty? The Provost believes that decision is for the new president, as well as any additional COLA.

We have submitted an exceptional request for \$11 million per year for two years but do not have any update on that yet.

Dr. Wurtz said the assumption from faculty is that this 6% is one raise for spring and there will be another from the \$5.5 million in the fall. He feels they will be unhappy when they see the reality.

8. **STARS program PUF funding**

Lorenzo Smith

The \$800,000 made available to the provost office is for supporting and sustaining faculty, support of equipment and technology. Dr. Smith will create a document to apply for this money.

If you have STARS requests, please work with Dr. Jerez.

9. **Budget**

Alisha Collins

If a position was vacant on January 15 the line is not automatically receiving the 6% COLA. If it is required for a vacant position an email should be sent to Alisha, Dr. Smith will have final approval. They may not receive the full 6%, but whatever is added will put the position in line with market rate.

Alisha advised the group that before offering a new position with the 6% COLA, it must have approval from Dr. Smith for faculty and Gina Oglesbee for staff.

Capital requests are due to the Provost's office by February 20. This will now be through Library Equipment Repair and Rehabilitation (LERR), \$4.2 million total. Cloud based software also needs to be requested through LERR (even though they are not eligible)

The regular FY24 budget is due to UT System by June 19 and should be finalized by UT by August.

10. **Other Business**

A committee has been formed to look at contracts and compare with the UT System. The question was who is heading this up. We need to ensure Academic Affairs is involved.

Dr. Smith said he would like to see the incoming president have some amounts/wiggle room that he can work with.

The president search committee is being finalized, Dr. Wurtz will serve on the committee as well as three faculty members, Staff council will name their representative by February 15.

Megan Weatherly asked if there was any update on the status of HEF that is potentially on the table? Hopefully we will hear something soon.

Alisha stated the roll forwards will happen soon and to move forward as if the money was there.

One-time transfers will be happening soon, if you have any further requests send them to Alisha as soon as possible.

Heather Catton provided a calendar of events for international students.

The AARC is providing writing tutoring for graduate students.

Finished 10.59

Attendees:

<i>Karyn Hall</i>	<i>Sharon Brewer</i>	<i>Judy Abbott</i>	<i>Kim Childs</i>
<i>Mary Ann Rojas</i>	<i>Lorenzo Smith</i>	<i>Hans Williams</i>	<i>Gary Wurtz</i>
<i>Alison Reed</i>	<i>Megan Weatherly</i>	<i>Mike Tkacik</i>	<i>Marc Guidry</i>
<i>Raquel Skidmore</i>	<i>Sherll Jerez</i>	<i>M.E. McWilliams</i>	<i>Jonathan Helmke</i>
<i>Dustin Knepp</i>	<i>Jason Reese</i>	<i>Alisha Collins</i>	<i>John Calahan</i>