

Academic Affairs
February 25, 2021

1. **Dr. Brandon Frye Introduction**

Dr. Brandon Frye is the new Vice President for Student Affairs and introduced himself to the committee, he reinforced his vision of collaboration between divisions.

2. **AXE Handle**

Erma Brecht & Alex Reisinger

Alex Reisinger, the Supervisor of the Axe Handle provided information on this, more holistic approach for students, to avoid them being passed from person to person.

ChatBot

Alex explained our new ChatBot named Jack has been introduced and can answer questions online 24/7.

3. **QEP**

Marc Guidry

Dr. Guidry gave an update on the topic of reducing student debt. Showed information on debt % from coordinating board almanac, state average is about 58%, we are above the state average. It shows that when students take longer to graduate their debt increases, but also not earning money as fast as they could. If we could cut a year off time to graduation we could save them money and help them earn more. The topic has been boiled down to one major strategy - increasing momentum towards their degree. We will be analyzing degree plans and seeing where changes can be made to help students graduate earlier.

4. **Advising Questions and Concerns**

Marc Guidry

Hollie Gamel Smith, Associate Dean of Student Affairs was contacted by the SGA, wanting to go the Board about academic advising. SGA have received enough different complaints/issues about how students are being advised over last year that it is a true problem that needs to be fixed. Dr. Guidry said he would try to do everything possible to come up with a solution. Holly spoke with Raquel Skidmore, as she puts together the PAAC meetings Trina Benson and Jessica Boone, EAB contacts, asked Holly to speak to them also. One of the main issues was students not knowing what to do when they had issues, Dr. Guidry has come up with a web page with advising questions and concerns. During COVID Jeremy Stovall had worked on this and a report from Web Focus reported any of these issues to the deans. Andrew Lannen said faculty felt like students were going above their head, straight to the dean. Dr. Guidry explained this is not an attack on faculty, but we are trying to fix this before it becomes a bigger issue.

5. **Academic Performance Solutions (APS) follow-up**

Karyn Hall

Karyn Hall sent details about benchmark selections, EAB said our size was too large. Therefore, Karyn and Dr. Bullard will go over those again and make necessary changes, giving us a narrower focus. She will send revised benchmarks when finalized.

Faculty Credentials – TCCNS conversion and term review

Karyn gave an update on those, she has also updated any new courses, this is part of an ongoing review cycle.

Accreditation Review and Reminders

Karyn will provide a complete update on the eight-week schedules, please provide her with any additional feedback.

6. 60X30 Refresh/Re-examination

Steve Bullard

Dr. Bullard provided an update from the Coordinating Board.

7. Any Other Business

Dr. Bullard said a question came up from SGA recently about opening the STEM building later in the evening. Dr. Childs said she would take care of this.

An update on the search for new Provost/EVP, there are four candidates, zoom meetings will be held. We hope to have someone in the position July 1. Dr. Gordon thanked Anthony Espinoza and Jeremy Stovall for their hard work and coming up with some great candidates.

There continue to be some issues between banner and Brightspace, CTL is working with IT and Brightspace corporate.

CTL are also working on an audit for all online programs reported to the Coordinating Board, which will be reported to the State. She will be reaching out to chairs and deans for help in areas where we can perhaps move programs completely online (maybe only 1 or 2 courses away)

Joe Shannon said that our schedule will go live on April 7th. however UT Tyler started their summer registration on February 1st, most other universities already have their schedules live for fall. We are a little late. Erma will discuss this with registrar's office and follow up with Dr. Shannon and Dr. Guidry. Karyn stated there was a different building process this year because of transformation to TCCNS (and single summer process), therefore it should be easier after this year.