

Academic Affairs Council
Via Zoom
April 1, 2020

1. **Summer Orientation**

Marc Guidry

Final decision has still not been made whether this will be virtual or face-to-face, looking at various options, including a hybrid version.

Working with Rich Barnhart looking Schedule Builder (Planner) to develop student's schedule for fall. In discussion with advisors, a suggestion made to email recommended schedule to student. Erma stressed that whichever format we use, we must keep a connection with students. Some details of orientation may be pre-recorded, but we want to offer students some type of experience. Dr. Guidry suggested advisors reach out to students who have already registered for orientation.

The next step would be to help students register for classes; we want them registered by July 1.

The summer registration campaign has started texts and emails and then the phone campaign will begin. We are trying to get as many students as possible registered for summer.

Advising Current Students

Dr. Guidry announced that some athletic students have been advised for fall with the old course numbers. 32% of Genjacks were advised using old course numbers, also a few students are reporting issues getting faculty to respond to them for advising in fall. In each case the student had to go through the department chair to get advised (15%). We must be very mindful about the connection; we have to do everything we can to keep them here. Email went out to faculty yesterday with cross listing with all new course numbers.

Gary Wurtz suggested a virtual departmental orientation. Dr. Guidry said each college/program should do what works for them, but have a backup for those students who cannot make the session. Erma suggested giving them two date/time options and we want advisors to have all the information available they may need, such as billing/payment information.

We will have a physical orientation a week before classes FIT (Freshman Immersive Transition).

Erma stressed there is a lot of anxiousness and high anxiety; this may mean students/parents consider putting off college for fall. We need to make the students feel comfortable and connected.

Numbers are all down for Maymester, summer 1 but not so much for summer 2; families are struggling to know what to do.

Announcement will go out to all students to advise that course numbers will be different. They will also be listed in Schedule Planner.

John Calahan reported Ad Astra information has changed/way information is reported and would like to advise on this and how new system will work at a future meeting.

2. **Telecommuting
Comp Time**

Steve Bullard

Dr. Bullard reported that approval was given to suspend current policy on telecommuting in relation to earning comp time. Staff can earn comp time while telecommuting, with approval from the supervisor, and should report as normal.

Accounting for time

An email from VPFA was sent late on Monday, explaining that anything done in addition to normal in response to Covid19, should be incorporated. And this applies to administrative positions also.

The idea is to get a total of number of hours were spent dealing with this crisis, to allow us to apply for possible reimbursement from State/Federal Government.

Judy Abbott encouraged everyone to open communication with faculty and staff thanking them for all their work and sacrifices they are making. Urged to be affirming as possible in all communication. Governor has extended the date school buildings are closed, now through April 30, which puts a huge strain on staff and faculty who have children at home. NISD has been providing food and learning packets. Suddenlink are providing 60 days free internet to all families.

3. **Pass/Fail Option for Students**

Steve Bullard

Dr. Bullard said that Jeremy Stovall and Andrew Lannen provided great leadership with the Senate; they are meeting with Dr. Gordon and Dr. Bullard later today. The university needs to take a position on this as soon as possible. There is a lot of student and parent angst out there, and hopefully today we will move forward with a decision. Lesa Beverly sent a poll to all chairs to get their take on this situation. Dr. Bullard asked if anyone had questions for Jeremy. He stressed that the Senate have looked at what is best for students and not faculty. More information to come.

4. **Distanced Education Fees**

Steve Bullard

Students who are paying \$33 fee are carrying whole weight to pay for all on line classes. Dr. Bullard is forming an ad-hoc committee to come forward with an action item for the April board meeting. Anthony Espinoza will chair this committee; serving on the committee will be Megan Weatherly, Karyn Hall, Jessica Barrett, Danette Wofford and Pam Corman. Judy Abbott agreed to serve as dean for this committee and Lesa Beverly will ask for a chair to serve also. The aim of the committee would be to make a recommendation for an encompassing fee for September 1, question as to whether this would include dual credit students.

5. **Any Other Business**

Alisha gave update on budget, deadlines sent out from VPFA includes graduate. Email was sent about tracking expenditures relating to Covid19 for possible reimbursement. Please submit to Alisha by April 6. If you have no expenditures, please also let Alisha know.

Next faculty senate meeting April 8, Danny Gallant will be talking about budget and answering questions, after that we will invite him to attend Academic Affairs Council.

Raquel Skidmore advised that PAC are offering a Zoom session today, which anyone is welcome to join. Kevin Langford and Rich Barnhart will be in the meeting and may offer alternative ideas for advising.

Judy reminded everyone that University Affairs have offered up staff in their area to assist where they can, possibly could be used for advising. Requests should be sent to Heather Howell.

April 7 is the virtual Graduate Research Conference, an email will be sent as well as information posted on the website.

Deans Forum met and asked about updates on articulation agreements - Dr. Bullard said they should contact Dr. Tareilo.

Dr. Wurtz announced that all summer camps are cancelled. That is going to be a hit on recruiting for future and hit on pocketbook. Last year School of Music awarded \$35,000 worth of scholarships, from these camps. Fewer students will receive scholarship money this year.

Dr. Childs stated that STEM are also cancelling their summer camps but looking at some online opportunities and sending out free of charge.

This will severely impact the budget.

Dr. Abbott said UIL events were cancelled this spring, which brought in thousands of kids and their teachers to campus; another hit to recruiting.

Erma asked the deans and directors to send any lists of students affected, so they can be included in recruitment communication.

We have eight virtual projects going on through admissions and we are receiving positive response from students.

6. Core Curriculum Assessment

Christina Sinclair

Dr. Sinclair chaired the Curriculum Assessment Committee this year and this was the first year they looked at requests for additions to the core.

A number of suggestions were made to the deans, concerning how often these should be reviewed, how many can be submitted from each department. The deans will discuss with chairs and provide feedback at future meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 8th at 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)

Attendees:

Joe Shannon

Sharon Brewer

Judy Abbott

M. E. McWilliams

Meredith Baily

Christina Sinclair

Raquel Skidmore

Steve Bullard

Alisha Collins

Mike Tkacik

John Calahan

Gary Wurtz

Tim Bisping

Pauline Sampson

Buddy Himes

Heather Catton

Marc Guidry

Rachele Garrett

Erma Brecht

Hans Williams

Meredith Baily

Karyn Hall

Megan Weatherly

Kim Childs

Jonathan Helmke

Anthony Espinoza

Jeremy Stovall

Andrew Lannen

Lesa Beverly