

Academic Directors Meeting

March 26, 2025

1. Associate Provost Update

Marc Guidry

Exemplary Student Pathways - Dr. Guidry explained we joined this UTS project two thirds of the way in, it is a way to revise curriculum to target the most promising students

We are now using a diagnostic approach, students showing show more promise take a one-hour class for the first eight weeks while taking English 1301. Students scoring lower take the lab for the entire semester. We are using peer teaching to staff the labs, AARC tutors and GTA, which helps create a social bonding element. Strategies on motivation and time management are taught.

We offer different math pathways that make more sense for student's major. The classes will be around twenty students, last fall we had a total of 366 students participating. TSI liability has been increasing in all areas, which we believe is COVID related, we are now test optional. There is a great deal of monitoring built into the ESP projects.

The system is interested in providing credit for prior learning (CPL). We want to meet students where they are, lower their cost and reduce time to degree.

New mechatronics degree will be offered fall 2026, courses were designed to prepare students to sit for certain industry qualifications.

We are reviewing possibility of testing students for credentials they already have and determining the fee structure. This could result in industry endorsements for badges. There are several areas listed in our catalog that offer direct assessment, not sure they are actually happening.

2. Update Dean/Provost Searches

Marc Guidry

Four Provost candidates will visit campus end March, early April, the hope is to make an offer by the end of April.

SFA have hired a search firm for the Dean of College of Business and Dean of College of Education, beginning in June.

3. Update from LLC

Megan Weatherly

Auto registration started testing last week and will be launched April 7, students can opt out if they want to.

We will begin faculty recruitment for SEP on Monday, 40 faculty will be chosen and funded by System. The advisors are working with UMC to make videos for students.

PACE office is getting systems up and running, the target is to start summer 2025.

Sabrina Delaney is now the contact person for Watermark, reporting to LLC, and will be handling faculty FAR as well as tenure and promotion.

With SFAS1101 as well as lesson plans there needs to do pre and post evaluation of where the students are in metacognitive and learning skills. This will be developed over the summer, there will be 12

required topics in 1101 and there will be pre and post testing to see if this is working.

4. CTL

Cindy Kilpatrick

Regents Outstanding Teaching Awards (ROTA) Megan and Cindy worked on the process and have received eleven nominations, two will be chosen to put forward by the end of March.

CTL are hosting visitors from UTS next week from the Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

ACUE just completed third session, completed by forty-eight faculty. The fourth course starts May 19, faculty completing all four will receive a certificate.

5. **International**

Heather Catton

International Office are getting ready for summer study abroad; all applications are closed. We should have ten faculty led programs with 160 students.

Also finalizing fifteen independent students completing summer programs, including a new one in Hungary with five students who each received scholarships to pay for everything. Four students will travel to Malaysia - university scholars leader program. We are hoping to have three students travelling to Latvia.

Numbers are level with last year, the goal is to increase the number of independent studies.

6. **AARC**

M.E. McWilliam

AARC saw three times growth in first time, full time from Fall 2023 - 2024. SI groups pull in large numbers of students where we can make the biggest influence. AARC have been working with the deans and SAIR to discover where retention was low and targeting those students. They now have walk in tables for speech pathology and construction management, and are working with soil courses.

7. **Institutional Effectiveness**

Chris Wilson

The office has seen growth of iteration with other offices including workshops and office meetings discussing assessment in valuable and productive ways. Important that student learning outcomes and program outcomes align with what students require. Also involved in compliance reporting and efforts to document plans to help academic units. One significant change in core assessment and how we assess the core, faculty trust model looking at beginning and end of student's time here. Working on annual program review.

8. **Registrar Update**

Mickey Diez

Summer and fall registration opens tomorrow (3/27), making effort to open registration as quickly as possible. This will allow students more than a month to register before they leave for summer Degree Works and Smart Plan finalizing details in business process changes, going well.

Working on new commencement schedule and will send out a request for volunteers. New software called Tassel (replaces Marching Orders) went live and is working smoothly.

Dora Luna, the new Associate Registrar will be handling registration and records management.

Dr. Guidry asked MD to provide a three -year retention plan for the Registrar's office (other units already provided).

9. Honors

Mike Tkacik

Dr. Tkacik reported a busy spring, working hard with students to get supplementary honors advising. Continued admittance and recruiting of students, UIL event today. Have 25 university scholars this year, URC April 15, at 4pm in movie theatre,

10. Library

Jonathan Helmke

Library have been updating the OER project with CTL. Providing communication to faculty about open access publishing, the System has negotiated with Elsevier, allowing faculty to post this without charge. We have a policy on predatory journals we need to make that distinction very clear. ETRC are offering research labs, which are being utilized by a lot of community people. We now have a GA to help support evenings in the library, we want to expand this.

11. Provost Update

Judy Abbott

The calendar committee were asked to revisit and consider some changes, these are now waiting on president approval. We are going to add a winter -mester in January, an eleven-day term beginning in the new year and ending before MLK day. May-mester will also be eleven days, both will include Saturdays. Megan stated that people at this table need a voice as they will be very involved with winter-mester. We need to establish if it will be part of Spring and not separate like a summer session.

We have three proposed college reorganizations for College of Liberal and Applied Arts, Forestry and Agriculture and Sciences and Mathematics. To seek efficiencies and bring together degrees and faculty. College of Education is also looking at the option of reorganization.

The Investiture is scheduled for May 1 and will be live streamed. Work and class schedule will continue as usual. We strongly urge participation of faculty in full regalia. Dr. Abbott urged the directors to consider attending this important ceremony, as a new part of UTS. There will be a lunch for all faculty, staff and students.

An Endowed Faculty Recognition event is scheduled on Tuesday, April 29 at 4pm in Cole Music Hall. Twenty-six endowed professorships and chairs will be recognized for the first time and then annually after this event.

Six endowed professorships awarded this year will be recognized and presented with medals. The other 20 existing endowments will also be recognized. This is a way to celebrate our endowed faculty.

The budget may be flat, System does not know yet what it will mean for our budget. Dr. Weaver said we must look at all open positions.

There will be an increase up to 10% in cost of benefits. If you have vacancies or permanent salary savings GW will be reaching out to see how directors want to move forward.

Fees relating to out of state employee of \$500-\$1,000 will start this summer

Attendees: Marc Guidry, Chris Wilson, Cindy Kilpatrick, Jonathan Helmke, Mickey Diez, Ginger Walker, M.E. McWilliams, Michael Tkacik, Heather Catton, Megan Weatherly, Judy Abbott, Sharon Brewer