

Academic Affairs Director Meeting

July 30, 2025

MG reminded everyone that must ensure we are doing all we can to help students. It is being noticed at a high level, we must ensure staff and student workers know how to help students.

1. **Auto Registration Update**

Megan Weatherly

The volume has slowed tremendously due to capacity issues in English, and beginning of orientation. We will do same practice for Spring 2026; English, Math, or math prerequisites. We must try to ensure freshmen finish at least 1301 before the end of first year and if possible 1302. We are working on an admission process to have TSI data, which will improve auto registration.

2. **Advising Session Evaluation**

Megan Weatherly

This will launch in the fall, advisers and leaders will receive monthly reports. The same questions will be used for all advisers, with an option to add customized questions. This will just be professional advisers to begin with and will eventually include faculty advisers. By end of fall all advisers will have been evaluated from students (if they complete it).

3. **Makerspace**

Megan Weatherly

Hired a student worker involved with social outreach, there will be mobile maker events. A Camp CTL session is planned in order to reach out to faculty. Revenue is improving, they have been involved with printing move-in packets. We will be partnering with student affairs on first year experience.

We have a group helping with move-in, distributing printed door hangers, key chains fridge magnets etc.

4. **Degree Works/Smart Plan Installation**

Mickey Diez

Degree Works and Smart Plan installation is continuing and going well. We are testing undergraduate curriculum and receiving training, we still have more to do and will then roll out user training, which will be minimal.

Degree works will be live under 25-26 catalog, any current students wanting to change to this catalog can, and would have access to Degree Works. Students under other catalogs will still be under CAP, we will be running two systems for a while.

5. **Centralized Class Scheduling**

Mickey Diez

We are working on centralized scheduling, looking at what other institutions are doing and best practices. We will carry out a pilot with College of Liberal and Applied Arts in the spring. MG suggested using this for English, which would help with auto registration.

Undergraduate and graduate catalogs should go live in a week or so, we are just putting the final changes on that, the departments have been very helpful.

6. **International Student Enrollment**

Heather Catton

The number of international student admissions has increased by 120 since last year. However, all visa interviews were put on hold for at least a month in May and so that has delayed students getting here. They have started the process again now but there is a backlog. To date we have 40 new international students coming, this is an increase of about 2.5% from last fall.

Study abroad numbers have increased with both exchange and independent study abroad programs. Most students are paying \$4/5000 for study abroad program, this is before scholarships are applied, most students receive around \$1,100.

The new location of the International Office in the library is making a huge difference to the number of students and parents visiting. Also have a partnership with athletics.

7. **AARC**

M.E. McWilliam

Fall projections show around 80 SI groups, over 20 walk-in tables, 190 tutors and 70 SFAS1101 workshops scheduled. Expanding resources offered to students. AARC is working with Student Affairs on a marketing initiative called "Knock and Know" – we will have an AARC representative walk the hall asking students "what is your hardest class?" they can then provide details about what AARC have to offer. We have seen a 50% increase in AARC attendance, compared to last fall

8. **Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL)**

Cindy Kilpatrick

Offered effective online teaching practices certificate, 53 members completed at least one course, 43 completed the entire certificate.

Adding effective teaching 101 for faculty new to teaching in fall 2025.

SEP we have 2 cohorts of 20 faculty each.

Four OER advancement awards, potential of \$30,000 savings in text books for over 300 students. We need to emphasize this can help faculty in other ways, students will have the material they need and perform better.

We are working with registrar on adding a tag in Banner when an OER class is available.

This should also be reflected in evaluations and T&P, should be counted as scholarly work.

Camp CTL is scheduled for August 13/14 (virtual) and 18/19 face to face.

9. **PACE Revenues**

Brent McLemore

PACE will carry \$30,000 over this year, the culinary classes in partnership with Human Sciences offered during summer were hugely successful.

247 total enrollment COB MBA levelling courses, banking certificate, building out GIS courses working with local employer and Forestry. Hydrex want to continue to offer skills training through PACE, met with Texas Forestry Agency and looking at some forestry and agriculture post-secondary credentials.

We have billboards advertising PACE

10. **Student Success Center (SSC)**

Raquel Skidmore

Auto registration will continue until August 21, we have 92 sections of SFAS1101, 40 more than last

year, we have instructors for all courses. Raquel worked with CTL team for a template for all SFAS1101 instructors, this will provide more consistency across courses. Syllabus has been revised to better support first year student success. We will have instructor training August 20, all instructors required to attend. Lydia has been cleaning up Brightspace, pre and post assessment has been added and that will be given to students at the beginning and end of the semester. Genjacks is completely full with 140 students, all participants will move in early on August 16 & 17. Counselor training will be offered for three days before students arrive, "transformation self and community" is the theme.

11. Institutional Effectiveness

Chris Wilson

Chris provided an update on degree maps, ensuring English and Math are offered in first year maps. We seem to be offering too many courses, need to decide what we really want to offer and when. We need fewer courses and increase faculty student ratio. There are two phases of map workshops, in the first 183 maps were revised, 158 planned for the second.

12. Honors

Mike Tkacik

Numbers have increased this summer; most classes are at capacity. MT personally advised 33 students last week and 21 scheduled this week. This should help with retention.

13. Library

Jonathan Helmke

Re-envisioning third floor of library, deleting outdated materials, we have perpetual access to many journals through UT system and therefore, do not need to keep hard copies. We have access to Copyright clearing house with UTS. We have programming available in library in the career center, such as resume workshop.

14. Comments from Provost

Jordan Barkley

Jordan wanted to quell the rumors about advising moving to Student Affairs but confirmed that at the request of Dr. Weaver he will be working with Kent Willis, looking at first and possibly second year experience. Enrollment is up approximately 9/13%.

Attendees: Jordan Barkley, Sharon Brewer, Marc Guidry, Megan Weatherly, Raquel Skidmore, Heather Catton, Chris Wilson, Brent McLemore, M.E. McWilliam, Mike Tkacik, Jonathan Helmke, Mickey Diez