

Deans Council

January 6, 2021

1. **Diversity update**

Michara Fields

Dr. Michara Fields, Chief Diversity Officer gave an update on how SFA will move forward in regards to diversity, equity, and inclusion. A campus climate steering committee has been formed with 56 people from across campus, looking at our diversity strategic plan, and want support in hiring diverse faculty and staff. Dr. Fields asked for feedback/suggestions from deans.

2. **Academic Partnerships Coordinator**

Steve Bullard

Ryan Brown Moreno has been hired, beginning January 4, 2021 as Coordinator for Academic Partnerships. She is currently housed on the 3rd floor of the Rusk building, telephone 2284. Dr. Bullard suggested deans consider inviting Ryan to college/department meetings.

3. **Updates on:**

Steve Bullard

RELLIS Academic Alliance

There are ten other universities in the alliance that deliver on the RELLIS campus. Working on MOU, board approved tuition at December board meeting. RELLIS keep 25% of tuition, SFA receive 75% there are no overhead costs. To break even we need to have 39 students enrolled.

Livingston/Polk County

Dr. Bullard, Dr. Gallant and Dr. Tareilo visited with Polk County last year and they would like SFA to offer dual credit as well as degree completion programs and masters programs. Also looking to start a BSIS program.

Atascocita Center

Several deans, as well as Provost, President and VP Finance visited the Atascocita Center on December 16th. This is an outstanding opportunity for us in association with LSC Kingwood, they have interest in education. Associate Arts in Teaching, AAT. Physics Engineering are also talking to LS Kingwood about offering our program completely on site. They have extra space at Atascocita center and would like to offer it there. In the spring we will offer course via livestream. David Baty makes the decision.

Aviation

HCH was approved by the board to proceed with this program, the MOU is being updated, we should be able to post the position very soon.

4. **Faculty Advising Students**

Marc Guidry

Erma has asked that we be very proactive in advising new admitted students who are not yet enrolled. There is a list available, Raquel Skidmore sent the list, and PAAC are acting on it. We are down in enrolment, so this is very important. Chairs should ask faculty advisors to please get proactive in advising.

5. **Enrollment issues/Communication with the Division**

Scott Gordon

Dr. Gordon provided information on enrollment. communication/shared governance. Messages are not getting to various levels in both directions. The COVID situation is still not good, Dr. Gordon talked with local hospitals, things are bad, there are no ICU beds. He stressed that we need to get faculty and staff immunized.

Dr. Gordon stated he will be joining dean's council and academic affairs council meetings on a regular basis, and will ensure the right people are at the right meetings to help improve communication. Dr. Gordon also stated there will be an expanded cabinet meeting once a month and will include a dean, chair and senate representative who can report back. An agenda repository and minutes will be made available. We are in the process of hiring a Chief Communications Officer who will help.

Dr. Gordon stated that chairs are being told they must teach a course online etc. there need to be regular discussions and updates on shared governance. What is definition/model and how to communicate and what is responsibilities for each person/area. This will be Dr. Gordon's focus for this semester. The reorganization is on hold until we get the basic communication and shared governance worked out.

The deans asked what could be shared with faculty at welcome back meetings, Dr. Gordon stated - working on transparency and shared governance.

6. **Update on Filling Positions**

The Board stated VSIP must be used to help our budget deficit. Budget office are going to look at final figures regarding VSIP and how we can use the saved funds (50%). The emphasis will be on faculty. Dr. Bullard asked about deans having full access to data registration report, Dr. Gordon stated he did not have any issues with others seeing this information and prefers transparency. He asked the deans to discuss this issue and report back to him.

7. **Curriculum Changes**

Marc Guidry

Dr. Guidry reviewed curriculum proposals in Curriculog, spreadsheets will be sent to deans, associate deans, and chairs to review for accuracy, which will then be submitted to the board of regents in April for approval. When we are adding a new concentration to an existing degree, we do not need to submit as substantive change. We are trying to do

everything possible to avoid unnecessary paperwork.

8. Update on filling positions

Dr. Bullard will have final approval on AA positions, working on budget figures see how much we have from VSIP that we can use.

9. Any Other Business

At the welcome back meetings the deans should convey to faculty that they consider adding to syllabus statement about mental health. Dr. Gordon was adamant this would be a faculty decision before being mandated.

UIL academic invitation meeting Saturday Jan 9th. 22 regional public schools will be in the Student Center. Working on locations for each competition to allow for COVID social distancing. Somewhere around 250 academic students will be on campus, the first one since COVID , there will be 3 others across spring.

The bookstore reported to Dr. Guidry that faculty haven't ordered their books, claiming only 51% of faculty have ordered. Chairs should encourage faculty to do this.

We were successful in receive a Reskilling Grant (like Cares Act) for \$112,500 , we have to give to students who had stopped out due to COVID, and have one year to graduate toward degree. Financial aid and admissions are reaching out to eligible students, 127 possible.

Deans Council	Academic Affairs Council	Chairs Meeting
January 6 th at 9:00 a.m.	January 27 th at 9:00 a.m.	January 28 th at 10:00 a.m.
February 3 rd at 9:00 a.m.	February 24 th at 9:00 a.m.	February 25 th at 10:00 am.
March 3 rd at 9:00 a.m.	March 31 st at 9:00 a.m.	April 1 st at 10:00 a.m.
April 7 th at 9:00 a.m.	April 28 th at 9:00 a.m.	April 29 th at 10:00 a.m.
May 5 th at 9:00 a.m.	May 26 th at 9:00 a.m.	May 27 th at 10:00 a.m.