

Deans Council  
February 7, 2024

Meeting commenced at 8.30 a.m.

1. **Welcome**

Lorenzo Smith

Dr. Smith welcomed and introduced Dr. Chris Wilson, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Dr. Forrest Lane, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies. He also welcomed back Alisha Collins from maternity leave.

2. **State Facilities Audit**

Shelby Childress

Shelby Childress, Project Coordinator for Physical Plant advised there will be a State facilities audit July 24-26. Thirty rooms will be randomly selected, we will be advised of them a month prior. Shelby will visit each room, ensure it has the correct number of seats and a sign will be placed to prevent anything being moved prior to the audit. The result of the audit could affect formula funding and TRB therefore, it is essential that we adhere to the guidelines.

It was suggested Shelby also advise the department chairs of the upcoming audit. A meeting will be scheduled for Shelby, Marc Guidry and Chris Wilson to discuss the affect this could have on our SOUS score.

3. **Student Service Fee Allocations**

Andrew Dies, Laura, Carrie Charley

Dr. Dies explained the process according to the Texas Education Code and HOP 04-124, regarding allocation of the student service fees. Applications are due March 29 with presentations April 5 – 12. Dr. Dies stressed that presentations much be made before the committee in order to receive funding. They could be made by a representative of the dean.

4. **COURSERA and Micro-Credentials**

Megan Weatherly

Dr. Guidry explained that employers go out and look for people with certain micro credentials/badges. We are not talking about displacing college degrees but making them better by imbedding micro credentials within a Bachelor's degree. In future we may have to consider awarding credit for micro credentials earned outside SFA. We need to look at ways to legitimately validate a way for students to graduate in less time and for less money. We are up against strong competition, and we have an opportunity now that we are in the UT system. This is very oriented to the labor market and looking at hiring college students.

Megan explained that we now have COURSERA available to us through UTS, which provides the means to micro-credentials. A credential can be completed in approximately 64/72 hours, with modules making up the credential. These can embedded into our current courses. A module cannot be repeated.

A presentation was made to the Chairs yesterday and they seemed very interested. Megan stressed that we are not saying "either, or" but use this as a way to enhance our students' degrees and experience. This is available free of charge to faculty, staff and students, including

dual credit students and can be accessed through mySFA. Dr. Abbott said she was particularly interested in faculty professional development. Megan stated there is a leadership certificate in COURSERA.

5. **Faculty Publishing in Predatory Journals** Marc Guidry

Dr. Guidry explained he had received two examples recently of faculty members publishing in predatory journals, wanting to use them for tenure and promotion.

The College of Business has a policy covering this, Dr. Smith asked Dr. Lane to review the policy and take to Graduate Council, with a view to adopting a university wide policy.

6. **HOPS** Gary Wurtz

Dr. Wurtz explained that all HOPS for review are in a TEAMS folder, accessible by the deans. It has been difficult to handle them without a regularly scheduled policy meeting. The deans will meet today and plan to meet regularly to discuss HOPs and provide updates at future meetings.

7. **STARs** Forrest Lane

Dr. Lane said we need to begin looking at STARs funding for FY25. The first year was not perfect and we must refine the process, he asked the deans for their expectations. Dr. Lane said his expectation would be for a faculty member to increase their external funding, submit good quality grant proposals/submissions and expect a deliverable. STARs must be PUF eligible, so would mostly relate to capital.

Dr. Lane stressed we should make those awards before the end of spring semester so they can be made September 1.

8. **Faculty/Staff Raises** Alisha Collins

Merit eligibility for faculty was discussed and was determined as:

“FAR on file representing at least 12 months’ worth of activity in a merit eligible position and employed as of February 1, 2024.”

There is short turnaround period, worksheets are due to Alisha by 2/12.

9. **Townhall** Lorenzo Smith

A Townhall to explain the Academic Affairs ‘Blue print’ (business model for campus) will be held via Zoom on 2/9/24 by the Provost.

Meeting adjourned 11:15 a.m.

*Attendees:*

<i>Lorenzo Smith</i>	<i>Marc Guidry</i>	<i>Sharon Brewer</i>	<i>Alisha Collins</i>	<i>Kim Childs</i>	<i>Gary Wurtz</i>
<i>Judy Abbott</i>	<i>Dustin Knepp</i>	<i>Hans Williams</i>	<i>Tim Bisping</i>	<i>Forrest Lane</i>	

*Guests:*

<i>Chris Wilson</i>	<i>Shelby Childress</i>	<i>Andrew Dies</i>	<i>Carrie Charley</i>	<i>Laura Turner</i>	<i>Megan Weatherly</i>
---------------------	-------------------------	--------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	------------------------