

Deans Council
April 5, 2017

1. **Federal Financial Aid**

Meredith Baily

Meredith Baily gave an update from the project management office; it appears information is not being filtered down to chairs. Meredith and others from financial aid discussed the issue of students not receiving financial aid for classes not on their degree plan. No final decision was made. A meeting with deans and associate deans will be arranged to discuss in more detail.

There was a question as to whether students could change majors if they are on probation. This has been address at previous meeting, and it was agreed that students on probation CAN change majors with the approval of both the dean of the current major and the dean of the major the student is moving in to.

2. **Teaching and Learning**

Megan Weatherly/Heather Olson Beal

Megan and Heather talked about the foundations of teaching and learning series offered to all new faculty each fall semester. Heather asked if deans would communicate with chairs and request they not schedule new faculty during the noon hour on Friday, which will allow them to participate. This is open to current faculty members too. At least half of the new faculty, who attend these sessions, reach out after the foundations for further help. They are held every other Friday at noon.

3. **Budget/hiring**

Danny Gallant

Dr. Gallant gave an overview of the current budget situation; he explained that the senate and the house presented appropriation bills.

- The Senate version took all our special items out \$12.4 million over the biennium ; the bulk of faculty support comes from general revenue.
- Summer school uses local funds.
- Reduced formula funding \$7 million.
- Special item funding is proposed to go away or be phased out.
- Result, it changes what we do.
- We will not know until the end of May or June the final decision.
- What we can do? Look at efficiencies.
- Summer budget, we budget much less than our summer budget is. We have always relied on vacant faculty and staff salaries to support this.

- If you are filling a position with appropriated funds and need to replace, a waiver must be completed.
- Dr. Bullard explained that our flexibility in the budget is very limited for Academic Affairs. We are trying to increase semester credit hours.
- Dr. Gallant asked how the deans felt about increased class sizes; they said it would be fine where reasonable, incremental increases were suggested.
- The deans express concern that enrollment will be heavily impacted by delayed faculty searches, due to the waiver process.

4. **Annual Faculty Evaluations**

Brian Murphy

Currently faculty are evaluated in spring for last year's work, creating big gap between when they did it and when they are evaluated for it. Could we make evaluation closer to the performance they completed? It was suggestion to do this on a calendar year, the same as staff. Dean's council supports this idea and asked Dr. Himes and Dr. Murphy to discuss with policy committee.

5. **Associate Dean Evaluations**

Kim Childs

Dr. Childs asked about an instrument to evaluate Associate Deans and Chairs, we currently do not have a standard form. Some colleges are evaluating and some are not. This will be addressed with Human Resources and a standard form will be created.

6. **Initial report from the Interdisciplinary Committee**

Brian Murphy

Dr. Murphy gave an Initial report from the Interdisciplinary committee; they reviewed three EAB studies, and policies from other institutions. The committee will meet once more. This will be discussed at the next meeting of deans, associate deans and chairs.

7. **Curriculum Changes**

Mary Nelle Brunson

Curriculum changes that have been through the curriculum process and submitted for board approval, after review and a couple of minor changes the deans approved these changes and they will be submitted to the board for final approval.

8. **Policies**

Buddy Himes

Early Registration Priority
 Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)
 Academic Program Review

Academic Appeals by Students
 In-Residence Requirement
 Concurrent and Dual Credit Enrollment Programs
 Research Enhancement Program
 Academic Advising for Undergraduate Students

All policies were approved and will be submitted to the board for approval at the July meeting.

9. Proposed Chairs Forum Policy

Proposed chairs forum policy was sent to Dr. Bullard and he shared with the deans. There was some concern as to why this would be needed. It was felt that chairs forum has become very structured; this was not how it was initially set up.

10. Any Other Business

Richards Carlberg will be presenting the SFA website to deans, associate deans, chairs, and directors on Monday, April 24th at 3pm. They will have an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

May 3, 2017

Attendees		
Judy Abbott	Ric Berry	Sharon Brewer
Todd Brown	Mary Nelle Brunson	Steve Bullard
Kim Childs	Shirley Dickerson	Buddy Himes
Brian Murphy	Janet Tareilo	Hans Williams
Part of Meeting		
Mike Coffee	Steve Cooper	Sabrina Delaney
Danny Gallant	Rachele Garrett	Mark Guidry
Stacy Hendricks	Carrienne Mance	Heather Olsen-Beal
Debbie Pace	Christina Sinclair	Megan Weatherly
Ann Wilson		