

## Deans Council

July 17, 2024

Meeting commenced at 9:03 a.m.

Minutes will be sent and approved via email.

1. **ACUE Effective Teaching Practices Series** Megan Weatherly
  - Megan informed the deans of the ACUE effective teaching practices that provide high quality professional development. UTS sponsors ACUE licenses for its institutions and focuses on “ensuring equitable access, participation and excellence for all students in high-quality programs and experiences, in the classroom and beyond”. ACUE provides high-quality content that is evidence-based.
  - A test cohort was run this summer with good results.
  - CTL is proposing to offer two series for the coming year Effective Teaching Practices (30 participants) and Effective Online Teaching Practices (30 participants)
  - Each series is comprised of four courses that offer a complete set of evidence-based practices that build on existing knowledge and expands instructional skill sets.
  - Participating faculty will receive \$500 for each course they complete, (up to \$2,000 is possible). If they complete all four they receive a digital badge.
  - This ties directly to our action plan and all deans agreed we should move forward.
  - CTL will identify faculty and the deans were asked to encourage them to participate.

- Megan stated that it is a large commitment of approximately 2 hours per week.
- We may also be able to tie this into our Faculty Awards celebration.
- The deans should send any follow up to Megan.

## 2. **Comprehensive Research Funds (CRF)** Forrest Lane

- Dr. Lane explained that this is state funding we receive each biennium to support research and creative activity. We received \$250,000 per year for the current biennium.
- Dr. Lane has been reviewing the best leverage for these funds to ensure that faculty get time for research. He suggested using the funds to pay for release time.
- The deans agreed that teaching loads are so high it is hard to make time for research. Forestry, in particular, has trouble finding adjuncts to fill classes in order to offer release time
- UTS want us to grow research. It was suggested perhaps we target these toward doctoral programs. The deans should send comments to Dr. Lane.

## 3. **HOPS** Gary Wurtz

- Dr. Wurtz provided an update on HOPs. The AAHOP committee has been working through the summer and been very productive.
- The only HOP not yet approved is the Predatory Journal HOP. Faculty Senate felt it was not needed. However, they have agreed to re-write it and it should be ready for approval in the next week or so.
- The committee will then take a break until September 1.
- Dr. Smith mentioned two HOPs due for approval on 7/19.

- The HOP relating to increased pay for adjuncts (03-403) (Dr. Smith confirmed funding for this will come from the colleges.)
- Faculty compensation HOP 03-403 addresses increases to faculty promotion amounts, funded from by the University.
- Dr. Knepp suggested the amounts are added back into the HOP and not just a percentage. (i.e. \$7,500 or 10% for Assistant to Associate, \$10,000 or 10%, for Associate to Professor, whichever amount is higher).
- Dr. Smith will advocate for the change to this policy be approved. We are waiting to send out faculty contracts and cannot do so until these amounts have been approved.

#### 4. LERR Requests

Ginger Walker

- The spreadsheet detailing the colleges' requests has been received by Ginger. However, after discussion on the amount available, the deans have asked to re-prioritize them.
- The amended information is due to Ginger by 8/15/24.
- Ginger will provide budget training for Academic Affairs admins as several payroll changes are being automated. Suggested date is the afternoon of 8/7.

#### 5. Budget/Action Plan

Lorenzo Smith

- Dr. Smith has received several questions about the data provided for SFRs.
- We will invite Karyn Hall to the next deans' council to offer more information.
- He stressed that the president is seriously looking at salaries and efficiencies and for Academic Affairs, SFR is really our only option. We need to address this issue.

- A new strategic plan will be formulated this year and will have objectives, measurables and action plans.
- Dr. Smith and Dr. Guidry stressed that we must continue to improve things and make efficiencies where we can. Advising is working well but we can improve.

Meeting concluded at 10.30 a.m.

*Attendees:*

*Lorenzo Smith, Marc Guidry, Sharon Brewer, Ginger Walker, Hans Williams, Dustin Knepp, Forrest Lane, Rick McDaniel (on behalf of Kim Childs), Stacy Hendricks (on behalf of Judy Abbott), Gary Wurtz (via Zoom)*