

Deans Council
September 17, 2025

Dr. Barkley congratulated the COSM for a successful ABET accreditation visit for electrical engineering.

1. Update from Cabinet/Chairs/Faculty Senate

Jordan Barkley

- JB met with Chairs' Council recently and they asked about the way LEAP funding is applied to student's financial aid. JB has a meeting scheduled with Judi Kruwell and will report back to DC.
- Dr. Weaver does not like the way summer funding works, especially in a base year. If there is any way to offer a second spring class or additional summer classes we should do so. Starting Spring 2, all classes will count toward our formula funding. JB will discuss funding for summer with Judi Kruwell and report back. We should offer everything we can.
- JB wants to offer a better, more equitable way to compensate faculty during the summer. JB and TC will be looking at options to pay a base amount for a minimum class of say 10, however if the numbers drop the faculty member will not be penalized. If the class increases they would receive additional compensation. We want to incentivize faculty to teach summer classes.
- JB was asked at faculty forum about free speech rights, with all that is going on in higher education. He stressed that faculty do have free speech however, we should not be pushing our own opinions. Faculty should ensure what they are teaching is listed on the syllabus.

- If employees promote questionable information on social media, general counsel should be notified.
- Chancellor Zerwas, Archie Holmes and others from UTS will be on campus October 16. JB asked the deans to send items they would like highlighted during the visit.
- The new dining hall pavilion is bonded under E&G and we are being encouraged to use the space for meetings. JB stated we would not use the space if we have to pay for technology. The sound is not great in there. The first aviation pinning is planned in that space for October 25.
- We need to look at the past exceptional item requests to establish what is needed, we cannot request money for things we already have.
- Karyn Hall gave a presentation to cabinet about formula funding and how it has changed, this information will be sent to the deans.
- There has been a request from finance and administration to move graduate student EPAFs to bi-weekly effective fall 2026.
- With regard to COMPASSO funding, JB would like to expand the ways to use these funds to allow more options and also increase the amount for study abroad. The funds should be used for academic innovation and revitalization.
- A Qualtrics form will be created to start the requests, with decisions made by the chairs and deans.
- JB plans to increase the amount offered from \$300k to \$500k.
- The study abroad funds have allowed more students to take part in these transformative experiences.

2. **GRA GTA Salaries**

Forrest Lane

FL provided data on graduate assistantships., and explained that due to the low amount offered we have less qualified students in these positions. This affects in particular our international graduate students.

FL would like to change the salary to:

\$15,000 over 9 months

\$20000 over 12 months

this would result in a lower number of graduate assistants. Data was provided data from other UT institutions and we are almost at the bottom of the list (except for UT, Tyler). Requesting this change to take effect fall 2026.

JB said it is important that we do not affect our instructional ability and do not want to reduce the number of TA's . GW stated Fine Arts will have lower graduate enrollment if we reduce the number of assistantships offered.

The deans would like to review the information provided and will schedule a deans forum to discuss further.

3. **Faculty Development Leave**

Jordan Barkley

It was felt every four years to apply for faculty development leave is too often, and should be changed to seven. JB said we need to look at the process and the HOP. For future years we will ensure any leaves are funded and not the burden of the college.

4. **Contract Length**

Jordan Barkley

JB was asked if we can offer longer term contracts to long-term adjuncts. The deans felt this would help when hiring lecturers particularly for core classes, if we could offer three-year contractst we would be more competitive. We will look into the option of offering multi-year contract.

5. **Additional Compensation**

Jordan Barkley

Additional Compensation HOP was discussed. One issue raised was awards only being allowed from gift accounts? We will discuss this with Ginger Walker.

According to the HOP we cannot offer additional compensation as well as reassigned time, it is one or the other.

Coordinator pay varies across colleges, we need to establish rules and guidelines.

A major problem concerning additional compensation is the EPAF routing, it does not go back to the original college therefore, someone could be teaching in different colleges and their dean/manager would not know.

JB has a meeting scheduled with HR next week to discuss the HOP in detail. We will report back. The deans should send any questions/comments to JB prior to his meeting with HR 9/25.

6. **Voluntary Minors**

Marc Guidry

MG explained that years ago we allowed students to set up voluntary minors, allowing them to be considered full-time for housing, financial aid or purple promise. However, this will now be a red flag in Degree Works beginning fall 2026. MG will look into this further and come back to DC.

7. **Budget Update**

Tricia Cain

TC and JB will start position review meetings with each dean, to establish upcoming retirements, need to fill positions, look at the bigger picture.

TC will be sending a balance report monthly to every unit.

Monthly budget forums will be offered for admins to attend, learn and raise issues.

The Provost will be meeting with every department over the next academic year, Sharon will be setting up these meetings.

Attendees: Jordan Barkley, Marc Guidry, Sharon Brewer, Tricia Cain, Kim Childs, Gary Wurtz, Forrest Lane, Dustin Knepp, Jason Reese, Stacy Hendricks, Hans Williams (part), Sheryll Jerez (part)