

Minutes
Deans Council
September 29, 2010

1. Undergraduate Research Conference Dr. Cecil, Dr. Jones & Dr. Tkacik
Dr. Cecil & Dr. Jones talked to the deans about the URC scheduled for April 7, 2011. Last year was a great success with the highest attendance ever. They asked the deans to get faculty on-board and submit research papers from students, any paper for academic year 2010 can be accepted.
Dr. Cecil reported that the biggest problem is getting people to come to and stay at the top scholar presentations, and asked for suggestions on how to approve attendance. It was suggested we could offer students credit for attending. It was suggested that students taking speech classes or capstone courses should be targeted as they are requested to attend outside speaker events.

Dr. Cecil asked if the deans would be interested in having the posters displayed at Showcase Saturday – if deans are interested or have any other suggestions they should contact Dr. Cecil.

2. Graduate Admission Status James Standley
Dr. Standley discussed students admitted to graduate school on provisional status. He explained that only clear admission allows a student to get financial aid. Banner will only list a provisional student one year. Rich Barnhart is preparing a list of all graduate students on provisional status, this will be sent to the deans – Dr. Standley asked that their advisors look at this. In order to change from provisional to clear, this must be done in the dean’s office. Dr. Standley suggested a possible option would be to change provisional admission – and make it admitted.

3. Policies Buddy Himes
(A-48) Student Evaluation of Instruction
Dr. Berry mentioned that there will be a lot of transcription for those departments that complete paper evaluations, converting them to electronic.
(E-20A) Administrative Evaluation of Faculty Performance, and Consideration for Merit Pay
The committee felt this should be two separate policies – Administrative Evaluation and another policy Merit Pay however, a title change and general clean-up has been made.
(F-39) Allocation of Information Technology Resources

All three policies were approved and will be included in the October board agenda.

(A-64) Academic Program Review

Dr. Berry presented this policy with a couple of minor changes, he requested the deans' input before this goes to the Policy Committee. This will return to Deans Council after review by the Policy Committee.

4. Institutional Effectiveness "Closing the Loop"

Mary Nelle Brunson

We need to make the last connection between college and entire unit of Academic Affairs and then through President's office. There has to be a reporting from dean level to VP. This needs to be meaningful and useful.

College level reporting is due to the Provost December 22, 2010. The deans need to take goals and evaluate what happened last year with data and discussions

5. First Year Experience

Mary Nelle Brunson

Dr. Brunson is moving ahead with a number of items raised from FYE - with Freshman Interest Groups (FIGS). Statistics tell us that students who are engaged and are successful with communities are more successful. Dr. Brunson would like to visit each of the colleges and talk to department chairs to introduce FIGs. There will be no monetary incentive for faculty however, looking at other incentives for faculty.

6. Enrollment

We have increased 100 students from last fall however, a number of other universities have increased by a much larger percentages (we are up 1%). The incoming freshmen class is down 150/200 - retention is important. Last fall we retained 65% of previous fall, our goal in strategic plan is to increase retention to 70%. So far this year the preliminary number is 63%. Dr. Berry stressed that FIGS are so important to help retention.

7. Any Other Business

Dr. Standley had a Banner issue - apparently the banner team want to delete students from the system if they have not registered for one long semester? Dr. Berry agreed this was not something we should do and will discuss with Paul Davis.

Dr. Abbott asked about SFA's response to the UT Austin situation, Dr. Berry reported that training videos are becoming available from UPD on certain issues, such as shooter on campus etc. We will continue to be mindful of these things.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Academic Affairs Council - October 27, 2010.