

Deans Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 1, 2025

1. Academic Program Reviews (APRs)

Marc Guidry / Chris Wilson

CW thanked the deans for achieving 100% compliance from colleges last year. This year's APR schedule will be highly structured, with meetings running through January–February 2026. APR reports are due by the end of May 2026. JB will join meetings for programs showing negative trends, followed by CW's office conducting follow-up actions.

2. Adjunct Process

Tricia Cain

When hiring an adjunct from another department, supervisor approval is required. Comments must be added to the EPAF stating that the supervisor has granted permission. Budget training will be offered today — Finance and Administration will cover several topics, followed by TC addressing Academic Affairs matters (moving expenses, adjuncts, etc.). TC and JB have completed the first round of review meetings with deans; data compilation is ongoing.

3. Centralized Scheduling

Dustin Knepp

COLAA was the pilot group for centralized scheduling; there was initial confusion regarding process and control. Department chairs will have first choice of rooms. The pilot aimed to determine future scheduling needs — ultimately, the Registrar's Office will oversee scheduling, but the college initiates the process. MG will confer with the Registrar to clarify procedures and expectations moving forward. A group training for Ad Astra will be scheduled. SUE scores should not be used as a reason to deny offering online classes.

4. Non-Tenure Track Promotions

Jordan Barkley

Although non-tenure track promotions were approved previously, budget allocations have not yet been made. Sharon Brewer will compile a final list of promotions and total budget amounts needed. Only promotions that meet established requirements and sound criteria should be approved.

5. Contract Length – Faculty

Deans may issue visiting/lecturer contracts up to three years, but should note that termination is only allowed for cause. Changing college needs do not constitute a valid reason for termination.

6. Cabinet Updates

Awaiting further clarification from UT System regarding DEI language.

A vote on the athletic fee will occur in fall/spring; if approved, it will take effect Fall 2026.

UPD Chief search is ongoing; Stacy Hendricks will represent Academic Affairs.

"Lumberjacks Make Great..." billboard campaign launching soon.

Dennis Quaid will headline the Rusche Lecture Series on April 9, 2026, discussing film entrepreneurship and SB22.

The university received a TRIO grant for student support services: \$1.36 million over five years. Funds will scale up the GenJacks program and add two support staff. GenJacks participants have a graduation rate 8% higher than non-participating first-generation students.

A Town Hall is scheduled for October 10, 2025, where JB will discuss college reorganization plans.

Chancellor Zerwas will visit campus on October 16, 2025 (schedule to follow).

7. Workload Policy Discussion

The discussion continued from the deans' forum. JB is reviewing workload policies at other institutions. The system does not dictate policy content. JB believes the current HOP is too specific. Recommendation: HOP should remain general, and each college should define its own workload specifics. The finalized workload policy should clearly outline expectations within faculty contracts.

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