

Deans Council
November 2, 2022

Meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m.

1. Minutes from our meeting 10/19 were approved and will be posted on the academic affairs webpage.

2. **University Marketing**

Graham Garner

Graham Garner, Chief Marketing Communications Officer gave the deans an update on UMC. He explained the current website re-design started around seven years ago and is still not complete. UMC are now working on a new redesign, which will hopefully address some of the major issues.

Graham acknowledged the issues with the launch of the Fine Arts web page and Gary Wurtz explained some of the difficulties. Dr. Abbott said the College of Education continue to have issues since going live last year. Graham explained about the new ticketing system, which seems to be successful and listened to the concerns of the deans, which he said are consistent with issues at other institutions.

Part of redesign process is going to be assessing what we need and optimizing our search tools to get the best results. UMC will be meeting with each college to address the issues. Each college has a dedicated writer assigned to them and they spend around 50% of their time working on College content.

Dr. Smith encouraged the deans to reach out to Graham with any feedback.

3. **Drop Students for Non-Payment**

Mickey Diez/Rachele Garrett

There have been many issues in the past where students are dropped for non-payment at midnight on Sunday night, with first class the next day, this allows no time to deal with the issue. In an effort to alleviate this problem, the drop will now happen on the Friday at noon BEFORE first class day, allowing students to talk to staff and try to resolve the issue. Mickey Diez & Rachele Garrett continue to look at ways to improve the process and one thing they would like to consider is earlier billing.

Students can split their bills into four payments and only have to make the first payment in order to avoid being dropped. Rachele will provide some data and they will continue to look at this issue. The deans felt the change of the drop date will help to ease the issue and that we are moving in the right direction.

4. **Early Detection/Intervention Disengaged Students**

Lorenzo Smith

Two faculty members in the College of Sciences & Mathematics, Keith Hubbard and Dipak Singh have used the presidents innovation fund to look at a new early detection system for students. Dr. Smith explained the process and asked for the deans buy-in, they are looking for \$34,000 to

launch this program.

The deans were encouraging and supportive of this work however, academic advisors also have to use EAB Navigate and this would mean them using two systems. We have looked at the option of cancelling our contract with EAB but there are two issues; (1) Can ITS replicate everything in-house that EAB provides, (2) Retention of records, would we have access to all our records in EAB system.

It was suggested that Keith and Dipak run a pilot scheme and provide a demonstration for the deans at a future meeting, Dr. Smith will arrange for them to come to a future meeting.

5. **Proposal to Establish ORGS Research Advisory Council**

Sheryll Jerez

A group of faculty members from various colleges would like to introduce a new advisory council named the Research Advisory Council. Dr. Jerez stated that ORGS already has two existing councils; Graduate Council and URC. After some discussion the deans agreed that there was not a need for this additional council. However, it was agreed we would look at the membership/chair terms for the Undergraduate Research Council and ensure we have a rotating chair, to offer more inclusivity across colleges.

6. **Budget Update**

Alisha Collins

Alisha stated the non-college restructure requests total about \$100,000 and explained if these are funded they would come "off the top" for Academic Affairs, these areas serve all colleges. The deans felt although these were warranted we have needs all over campus and to make changes in small pockets seems unfair. Dr. Guidry reiterated that Academic Affairs needs more funding.

Alisha explained the only option to increase staff salaries, is to restructure and that does not open until January, 2023 and if approved would take effect September 1, 2023.

7. **Policies**

Hans Williams

Tenure and Continued Employment (7.29)
Academic Probation, Suspension and Reinstatement for UG (6.4)
Academic Program Review (5.1)
Academic Freedom and Responsibility (7.3)

All four policies were reviewed and the deans had no recommended changes. Dr. Smith approved these policies for review at the January 2023 board meeting.

8. **Togetherall Platform for Students**

Clare Fite, Meredith Baily

Clare Fite, Director of Counselling Services introduced the new peer-to-peer online platform for students called "Togetherall" this will compliment services already offered and is monitored 24/7. Allowing them to reach out to local services who can help with crisis intervention.

The meeting adjourned 10:51 a.m.

Attendees:

*Lorenzo Smith
Sheryll Jerez
Hans Williams*

*Marc Guidry
Alisha Collins
Judy Abbott*

*Kim Childs
Dustin Knepp
Sharon Brewer*

*Gary Wurtz
Tim Bisping*

Guests:

*Graham Garner
Clare Fite*

Rachele Garrett

Mickey Diez

Meredith Baily