

Deans Council
November 15, 2023
Hosted by College of Forestry & Agriculture

Meeting commenced at 9am

Minutes from November 1, 2023 were approved and will be posted on the Academic Affairs web page.

1. **Phased Faculty Retirement HOP** Damon Derrick/John Wyatt/Deans
Deans Forum has reviewed the HOP “Phased Faculty Retirement” and had some questions for John Wyatt and Damon Derrick.

Dr. Williams was concerned that this would cause issues if a faculty member chose to take this option. Would the college have to wait until the end of the three years to replace the position? Damon said the colleges would have to use adjuncts to fill those phased out classes.

The deans asked if they got to keep the salary savings. Dr. Smith explained that with the current model we have the \$2 million dollars at our disposal but would not get to keep salary savings. Damon made it very clear that this is not an entitlement and that deans can disapprove a request for phased retirement.

John Wyatt explained this HOP would really only apply to ORP retirees. TRS would not be eligible. He said he would look at how other UT institutions are handling this as far as TRS. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

2. **HOPS**
It was stated there is some unrest within Faculty senate regarding the process for HOPs. Dr. Smith explained we are trying this process and can review it at the end of the year.

Deans Forum also discussed HOP “Affiliated Organizations and Advisory Councils”, as requested by General Council. Concern was expressed that VP of Development makes the decision for approval. The deans would prefer that the Provost have approval. It was agreed we would table this item and discuss further at the next meeting and ask Damon to attend.

3. **NCAA Eligibility** Mickey Diez
Mickey explained that the registrar’s office certifies academic standing for athletes. We are bringing in a new person to do this, and looking at the entire certification process. It is felt that some areas currently handled by athletics, such as progress towards degree,

should be handled by Academic Affairs. This would add more academic integrity to the process. Mickey has already discussed with Dr. Guidry who agreed.

Mickey suggested this process be completed by the advisors when final grades are reported, and then sent to athletics. The deans asked if this could be created in a report or could self-populate? In general, the advisors are currently overworked. Could this be done by someone else, if trained? The deans stated that having a more robust degree audit would take care of most of this.

4. **Degree Works**

Mickey Diez

We are waiting on a demo on Degree Works to be arranged through ITS, perhaps in December. To help prepare for Degree Works, a degree audit committee is being formed in the registrar's office, together with colleges. Mickey will be reaching out to the deans for suggestions on committee members.

5. **Dynamic Forms**

Mickey Diez

Mickey reported that more dynamic forms are being implemented and we will be pursuing this further. The registrar's office will reach out to the deans to establish who will approve the process.

6. **Unmet Needs**

Lorenzo Smith

The Provost said we continue working on our unmet needs document and may need to add Enrollment Management. More resources are needed for this mission critical function.

Meeting concluded at 10. 40 a.m.

*Lorenzo Smith
Christina Sinclair
Damon Derrick*

*Sharon Brewer
Gary Wurtz
John Wyatt*

*Hans Williams
Dustin Knepp*

*Kim Childs
Tim Bisping*