

Deans Council
November 16, 2022

Meeting commenced at 9:02 a.m.

Minutes from November 2 and November 9 were approved.

1. **SFA Class Attendance Policy**

Andrew Dies

Andrew Dies discussed the current SFA class absence policy, which still leaves the final decision up to the instructor even if the absence is an approved SFA event listed on the excused absence web page through MySFA.

Dr. Smith asked if we could look at adapting the policy asking faculty to honor the excused absence. After some discussion it was agreed Andrew would put together a working group to look at this policy and we would submit names of a dean and associate dean to be part of the group.

2. **Early Detection System Demonstration**

Keith Hubbard/Dipak Singh

Dr. Hubbard and Dr. Singh provided information on their Early Detection and Intervention of Disengaged Student II Program (EDI2), which has the following objectives:

Provide weekly summaries of student engagement for a pilot set of advisors. Examine effectiveness of pilot and modify as needed. Identify additional interested stakeholders.

Develop a graphical user interface that allows for visualization of key engagement metrics, first for advisors and other stakeholders, next for students themselves to see and improve their own engagement.

Deploy early prediction models to identify at-risk students based on engagement, with models surpassing effectiveness of EAB's current risk prediction.

Dr. Hubbard stated that SFA is collecting and storing data but cannot access it. Our core mission is to support student success. He would like to improve the analytics drastically and get it in the hands of people who can use it. We need to see when students are in trouble and then do something about it. EAB is not good at predicting how students will perform in future semesters even though we are providing the data and paying for it.

The concern expressed by some deans is that advisors already have to use EAB and their workload is high; therefore, to add on another requirement would be difficult. Our contract with EAB ends in 2025 so we need to find a way to move the advisor notes and send out alerts before then.

Drs. Hubbard and Singh want to conduct a pilot in stages, resulting in the most effective way to help students by empowering advisors with more data. Dr. Smith would like to move forward with this continued effort and there was 100% support from deans.

3. **Research Enhancement Program**

Sheryll Jerez

Dr. Jerez provided statistics on research vs. creative activities for the internal grants we provide to faculty through the research enhancement program. There have been complaints that URC is not considering creative submissions. The deans will review the data further and send comments to Dr. Jerez.

4. **Comprehensive Research Funds**

Sheryll Jerez

ORGS have received \$149,000 per year from the Coordinating Board and the money can be used to pay for software, including Cayuse. There is approximately \$115k remaining that needs to be spent and she will be sending an email out to the deans. It was noted this money cannot be used for travel.

5. **Overload payment for Chairs**

Marc Guidry

Dr. Guidry discussed the issue of overloads for academic unit heads. We have had instances where a chair has routinely schedule themselves for overloads. This issue was taken to Chairs Forum several months ago for their recommendation but we have received no response. It was recommended that overloads for small classes be pro-rated.

6. **Ombudsman Position**

Lorenzo Smith

The question of an Ombudsman has gone through the 4SP process and it is felt at the moment this is not high priority and therefore we will not proceed at this time.

10.55 a.m. Dr. Smith left and Dr. Childs presided over the remainder of the meeting.

7. **Policies**

Hans Williams

Summer Teaching Appointments (7.28)
Academic and Professional Qualifications (7.1)
Use of University Facilities

The three policies listed above were discussed and recommended to the Provost for his approval. Dr. Smith approved the policies and they will be submitted to the board at the January meeting.

Establishing Centers (5.10)

This policy was discussed, but it was decided we need more clarification as to what is a Center. The policy is on hold at present while Dr. Jerez gathers more information.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 p.m.

Attendees:

Lorenzo Smith

Kim Childs

Tim Bisping

Andrew Dies (part)

Marc Guidry

Gary Wurtz

Hans Williams

Sharon Brewer

Sheryll Jerez

Judy Abbott

Alisha Collins

Dustin Knepp