

## Dean's Council Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2025

### LEER Requests

LEER requests and the current approval process were discussed. The existing process was determined to be inadequate, and the council is exploring a more effective approval process.

### Budget Request Process

Increased enrollment is requiring the hiring of additional faculty, creating new budget challenges. Budget requests are due in the first two weeks of June, with timelines expected shortly after Christmas break. Additional funding will be needed for adjunct budgets. Gary Wurtz noted that removal of course fees significantly reduced available funds, particularly impacting Fine Arts and Forestry. Discussion included the possibility of reintroducing fees or implementing differential tuition, though UTS constraints apply.

### Curriculum Approval Calendar

The updated curriculum approval calendar was discussed to ensure timely catalog updates. Mickey Diez will be invited to a future meeting to explain the current process. It was agreed that the Dean's Council approval step could be removed.

### Banner 9 – Faculty Office Hours

Banner 9 includes an option to display faculty office hours. Rebecca Galatas will be invited to discuss this option. The Provost suggested enabling it as optional and piloting it through CTL.

### Summer Course Offerings

The President wants as many summer courses offered as possible. Students with aid and Purple Promise cannot fund summer courses. Kent Willis is exploring scholarship options. Minimum enrollments are 10 undergraduate and 5 graduate students. Faculty pay will not be prorated, and most summer courses are expected to be online.

### Dean of Health Studies Search

Jordan Barkley is working with four search firms. A decision is expected by mid-January.

### Latin Honors Policy

Stacy Hendricks reviewed Latin Honors criteria. It was agreed to remove the second criterion and reduce residence hours from 42 to 32. The Provost suggested collective recognition at commencement.

## **Graduate Assistantships**

Dr. Lane reported significant understaffing. Approximately \$250,000 in unused GA funds may be reallocated. GA pay will increase from \$12 to \$15 per hour. Deans will retain the same number of assistantships.

## **Meeting Schedule Changes**

Effective January 1, Deans will meet with the Provost on the first Wednesday of each month. The Academic Affairs Leadership Team will meet with the deans on the third Wednesday. SAIR will return to Academic Affairs, with Karyn Hall reporting to the Provost.

## **Report from Cabinet**

The President would like more graduate information for commencement. A formalized system led by Sharon Brewer will be implemented. The university is on track for 22,000 applications before Christmas. The athletics fee vote is scheduled for March 2–3. An audit of development funds was completed, and administrative leave adjustments were announced.

## **Attendees**

*Matt McBroom, Kim Childs, Marc Guidry, Jason Reese, Stacy Hendricks, Dustin Knepp, Gary Wurtz, Christina Sinclair, Tricia Cain, Sharon Brewer, Jordan Barkley*