

Academic Council Minutes
February 13, 2008
2:00 p.m.
Library Conference Room A

Present: Mr. David Ray; Dr. Debbie Bryant; Dr. Ranelle Eubanks; Mr. Mark Spencer; Dr. Louis James; Dr. Peggy Doss; Dr. Richard Kluender; Dr. Morris Bramlett; Dr. Trey Berry; Dr. Jim Roiger; Ms. Annette Hall; Ms. Pamela Gouner; Ms. Sandra Campbell; Ms. Linda Rushing; Mr. Bob Ware; Dr. Jack Lassiter; Reporter: Ms. Rita Hyatt.

The Council approved the January 30, 2008 minutes.

Dr. Lassiter provided the Council with Headcount Data from Fall 2003 to Spring 2008 and SSCH for 2007-08. He stated that enrollment from Spring 2007 to Spring 2008 decreased by 49 students. Dr. Lassiter also stated that enrollment in Southeast Arkansas school districts is decreasing as well. Dr. Lassiter reminded the Council to begin preparation of their 2009 budget by looking at faculty overloads, class size, and Strategic Plan. Dr. Lassiter encouraged Unit Heads to include new plans in the upcoming budget. Dr. Lassiter compared UAM tuition and fees with other institutions in Arkansas. Dr. Lassiter discussed construction projects on campus. He noted the swimming pool has been closed indefinitely due to maintenance issues. There will be an open meeting on February 29 at 3:00 in Spencer Gallery to discuss the swimming pool issues. Dr. Lassiter stated that Commencement would begin at 9:30 a.m. on May 9. He also announced the new officers for the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Ranelle Eubanks stated during the Professional Development week in August 2008 that there would be a training session on Child Maltreatment (Act 703).

Mr. Ray discussed solicitation of donations/gifts. He asked that faculty and units notify the Office of Advancement if they are seeking donations.

Dr. Trey Berry provided the Council with information for the possible structure of an Honors Program including establishing a Faculty Honors Council, faculty incentives, admission requirements, and curriculum completion requirements. Dr. Berry stated that UAM is the only university in Arkansas without an Honors Program. Mr. Ray asked if the Council wished to proceed with the Honors Program: the Council agreed. Mr. Ray asked the Honors Program committee to develop a proposal for the next Academic Council meeting.

Mr. Ray explained a need in the School of Education for computers to expand their computer lab. He asked any Unit Head that had any serviceable computers to please contact Dr. Doss.

Dr. Eubanks provided the Council with ideas for summer school and suggestions from a survey completed by UAM students. Mr. Ray stated that Dr. Lassiter wants ideas by February 26 on how to improve summer school for discussion at the Executive Council meeting.

Mr. Ray reminded the Council that the first draft of the class schedule for Summer 08, Fall 08 and Spring 09 is due to the Registrar's Office on February 13.

The Council discussed C & S proposals from Arts and Humanities, Computer Information System and Academic Affairs. Mr. Ray made a suggestion that a student must choose 9 hours of electives from the PHIL prefix for a philosophy minor.

Mr. Ray noted that Dr. Clay Brown had sent an email asking faculty to nominate students for the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. The students must have completed 90 hours at the end of 2007 fall semester and have a cumulative GPA of 2.80. Please return the form to the Office of Student Affairs by 4:30 p.m. on February 27.

The Council adjourned at 4:50 p.m.