

Academic Council Minutes
April 9, 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. Robert Weih; Dr. Morris Bramlett; Dr. Trey Berry; Dr. Kelly Bryant; Dr. Jim Roiger; Ms. Annette Hall; Ms. Pamela Gouner; Ms. Sandra Campbell; Ms. Linda Rushing; Mr. Bob Ware; LTC Kenneth Cole; Guest: Dr. Jack Lassiter; Reporter: Ms. Rita Hyatt.

The Council approved the March 26, 2008 minutes with corrections.

Mr. Ray asked the Council to review the IB program. The Council discussed what courses may be added and level of score/credit. The Council agreed to continue to develop a program to accept IB credits. Mr. Ray asked Dr. Ranelle Eubanks to develop a proposal to submit to the Council at the next Academic Council meeting.

The Council discussed what type of student would take advantage of the Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree. Mr. Ray said that it was a good degree program to assist students to return to college to complete a degree. The Council discussed that general studies students could use this program. The Council asked how the BLA would be marketed to students.

Dr. Debbie Bryant reminded the Council of the limited space for classrooms for the fall 2008 semester. There are no classrooms for TT 9:40 and TT 11:10. Please call Dr. Bryant before adding classes to the fall schedule. Mr. Ray reminded the Council that occasionally units will be asked to share classroom space with other units and encouraged faculty and staff to welcome other departments into their building.

We continue to have a problem with students attending classes in which they are not enrolled. Mr. Ray asked that every Unit Head express to faculty how important it is to take roll in every class and appropriately verify rosters received from the Registrar's Office.

The Registrar's Office asked the faculty to complete the 60% Enrollment Verification Roster to help assure UAM's compliance with federal financial aid guidelines. Some faculty continue to have a problem identifying when a student has stopped attending his/her class. Unit Heads were asked to encourage faculty to take roll in every class.

Mr. Ray questioned faculty's right to withdraw students from a class due to absences. The Council stated that students paid for classes, and it should be the student's choice to drop classes. Faculty should advise students of their attendance policy early in the semester. The Council was in favor of removing the administrative withdrawals by faculty. The Council to continue the discussion of withdrawals at the next AC meeting.

Dr. Lassiter complimented the Council on their budget presentations. Dr. Lassiter discussed funding issues for FY 09 budget. He also distributed the Council with information on the FY 09 budget. Dr. Lassiter stated that the Board approved a 7% increase in tuition and fees effective July 1, 2008. Dr. Lassiter asked that job offers be suspended at this time. Dr. Lassiter encouraged the Council to look at the quality of each of their programs. He stated that class size is a problem in some units.

Mr. Ray stated that in an attempt to emphasize academic performance, campus departments/offices and student organizations will not be permitted to schedule meetings, social events, or host fund raising-activities on- or off-campus 24 hours before the official start of the final exam period through the conclusion of final exams.

Mr. Ray provided the Council with a copy of the Final Exam Schedule for Spring 2008. He stated that all classes are required to meet during the final exam period as part of seat time for that course.

Mr. Ray provided the Council with a copy of the Request to Take Final Exam Early form.

The Council discussed C & S proposals from Social and Behavioral Sciences and UAM College of Technology-McGehee & Crossett. The Council passed C & S proposals. Ms. Linda Rushing provided the Council with three additional proposals for discussion.

- 1) Delete Computer Maintenance/Networking Course Descriptions CTC- #26
- 2) Add Computer Maintenance/Networking Course Descriptions and Numbers CTC- #27
- 3) Add Basic Computer Repair/Networking Skills Certificate of Proficiency CTC- #28

The Council agreed to waive the 10-day review on these proposals from UAM College of Technology-Crossett and Ms. Rushing may submit proposals to C&S on April 11.

Mr. Ray provided the Council with a handout on the Weevil Welcome Survey.

Mr. Ray asked that all faculty announce to their classes that pre-registration is in process for summer and fall and ends April 14.

The Council adjourned at 4:40 p.m.