

Academic Council Minutes
March 25, 2009
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. Kelly Bryant; Dr. Jim Roiger; Ms. Annette Hall; Ms. Pamela Gouner; Ms. Lanee Dunlap; Ms. Linda Rushing; Mr. Bob Ware; Ms. Misty Paschall; Guests; Dr. Jack Lassiter; Mr. Jay Jones; Reporter: Rita Hyatt.

The minutes of February 25, 2009 were approved as written.

Dr. Lassiter noted that units did an excellent job in their budget presentations. Dr. Lassiter stated that the Board would be asked to approve an increase in tuition and fees of \$5.00 for UAM and \$2.00 for the College of Technology's as well as a laboratory fee of \$10.00, all effective July 1, 2009. Dr. Lassiter stated that the non-classified personnel will receive a 2% raise in base salary only starting April 1, 2009 and retroactive to January 1, 2009.

Mr. Jay Jones updated the Council on funding issues for FY 10 budget.

The Council discussed retention ideas. The School of Arts and Humanities will offer a new custom printed Spanish textbook and will revise the Fundamentals of English class to better serve the needs of students. The School of Education plans a pinning ceremony for students who are admitted into teacher education.

Mr. Ray asked the Unit Heads to tidy up their unit for the upcoming Centennial Celebration on April 1 and Board of Trustees on April 17. Mr. Ray asked the Unit Heads to encourage their faculty to dismiss classes on April 1 at 10:15 a.m. so students could attend the Centennial Celebration.

Mr. Ray stated that there were some issues concerning the noise and bad behavior in the Library Tech Lab. The Council discussed several options: close the lab permanently, reconfigure the lab set-up, determine how to punish student behavioral and devise a student log-in process.

Mr. Ray stated it was important for faculty to respond to students email. Potential students use their personal email address and it may be caught in the spam filter. Unit Heads should ask faculty to review items in barracuda closely before deleting the items.

Mr. Ray asked the Council if anyone was having problems with copy paper use in computer labs. The Council stated that the problem had been corrected internally.

Mr. Ray asked Units Heads to encourage faculty to send an email to students as soon as possible if it was determined that a class had to be cancelled.

Mr. Ray reminded the Council of pre-registration April 6 through April 17.

Dr. Debbie Bryant reviewed the “Purple Card” for graduate level classes. The Registrar’s Office has placed a block in the computer system that would prevent a student from taking no more than six hours of graduate classes without being admitted to the graduate program. The purple card will help limit the number of graduate level classes a student can take without approved signatures. The Registrar’s Office will not process the purple Change of Registration card without the signature of the Graduate Coordinator and Graduate Dean of Education or Forest Resources.

The Council discussed the Roger Phillips Transfer Policy (Act 182) that permits students who have earned A.A., A.S., and A.A.T. degrees to transfer into a four-year institution of higher education with all hours accepted by the 4-year institution. The Council discussed changing our general education requirements to 35 hours and making the other nine hours part of supportive requirements for each major in the areas of speech, humanities elective, and math/science/technology elective. There was a proposal to reduce the general education requirements to 35 hours and make the other nine hours supportive requirements. The proposal was approved by the Council, there were four dissenting votes.

The Council discussed C & S proposals from the UAM Colleges of Technology at McGehee and Crossett. The Council approved all proposals.

Mr. Ray reminded the Council that the Annual Review of Faculty Performance is due on April 29 in the Provost’s Office.

Mr. Ray provided the Council with a draft copy of the Ten-Year Program Review. He asked Unit Heads to review the draft copy and notify Office of Academic Affairs of any needed corrections by March 27.

Mr. Ray asked the Council to email him by March 27 if they could go to the ULM campus on April 29 to see how ULM uses high speed networking tools.

Mr. Ray reviewed upcoming dates and set the next Academic Council meeting for April 8.

The Council adjourned at 4:47 p.m.