

Academic Council Meeting  
August 31, 2011  
Library Conference Room A

Present: Mr. David Ray, Dr. Debbie Bryant, Dr. Ranelle Eubanks, Mr. Mark Spencer, Dr. Louis James, Dr. Peggy Doss, Dr. Phil Tappe, Ms. Sandra Campbell, Dr. Tom Springer, Dr. Kelly Bryant, Mr. Brian Hairston, Dr. Chris Sims, Ms. Pam Gouner, Ms. Linda Rushing, Reporter: Rita Hyatt.

Mr. Ray introduced Dr. Phil Tappe, Dean of the School of Forest Resources and Director of the Forest Resource Center, as the newest member of the Academic Council.

The minutes of the August 3 meeting were approved.

The Council discussed retention ideas.

Mr. Ray discussed the issue of student athletes and lab times. Athletic Director Chris Ratliff and Coach Hud Jackson assured the Chancellor and Provost that they would work with any student athlete whose schedule required him/her to be in labs after 2 p.m. It was noted that the Athletic Director and Coach would ideally like for students to be finished with classes and labs by 2 p.m.

Mr. Ray stated that Mr. Jay Hughes has submitted a report to the Governor's Task Force on Racial Profiling. UAM has had no reports of racial profiling on any campus.

Mr. Ray provided the Council with a current copy of UAM Operating Procedure 650.1 Re: Continuing Education. Memory Dickson will be processing Continuing Education Forms in the Office of Advancement.

Mr. Ray discussed STEM Works, a pilot project to focus on science, technology, engineering and math, preparing students for job demands in the future.

Mr. Brian Hairston discussed the Experiential Learning Committee's ideas.

- Dean and Faculty would discuss courses to make a determination if the course was a proper one for experiential learning credit. When assigning experiential learning course credit, we would first attempt to map it to a specific class. Failing that, it could be mapped to an elective or Special Topics course.
- Students could request experiential learning credit AFTER completing at least 45 hours of coursework, with at least 12 hours in residence.
- Students could receive up to 12 hours of credit for experiential learning for four year academic programs. Ms. Cantrell is going to visit with Mr. Ware and Ms. Rushing to determine an appropriate limit for technical programs.
- Student knowledge could be assessed by exams, rubrics, checklists, performances, portfolios, or interviews.
- Measuring committee would be composed of two individuals from the academic unit(if the unit has two subject matter experts that would serve; failing that, the academic Unit Head would serve), and one person from the University serving as the school's representative on experiential learning.

- Student assessment would be graded on a credit/no credit basis (dependent on impact on financial aid). If the student fails the assessment, he/she would then be allowed to take the class as a regular student.
- Students would pay tuition for the class they will attempt to receive experiential learning credit for, but no fees.
- Students cannot receive experiential learning credit for a class previously taken for which you received a grade in the past six years.
- Students may not receive an experiential learning credit for a class for which CLEP testing is available.
- All credit granted in regard to experiential learning would be treated the same in regard to prerequisites.
- Students would begin the process by enrolling in the class, then submitting a written request outlining their request for experiential learning credit. They would then be assigned a faculty advisor in this area (subject matter expert). The advisor would serve as one of the academic unit representatives on the reviewing committee. For this dual role, the advisor would receive \$ (50/100/200), and would develop the measurement tool for assessing the student's request for experiential learning credit. The student would then be required to submit their evidence of learning 30 days before the beginning of the semester for the class they're enrolled in.
- The committee would give the evidence an initial review, including comments, and if the student fails, the student may revise their material, and request a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. If the student fails the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – they would take the class as a “regular” student without additional financial payment.
- Students appealing a pass/fail decision would follow the grade mediation process policy.

Mr. Ray discussed Act 747 (Transfer Policy). Mr. Ray encouraged Deans to revamp programs to 120 hours by removing electives or other adjustments. The Council asked about reducing the General Education requirements to 35 hours instead of 44 hours. The Council will continue to discuss this topic at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

The next Academic Council meeting will be Wednesday, September 14, 2011 in Library Conf. Room A.