

Academic Council Meeting  
Library Conference Room A  
November 14, 2013

Present: Dr. Jimmie Yeiser, Dr. Ranelle Eubanks, Dr. Tom Springer, Mr. Mark Spencer, Dr. Lou James, Dr. Peggy Doss, accompanied by Ms. Kim Level and Dr. Donna Hunnicutt, Ms. Sandra Campbell, Dr. Laura Evans, Dr. Kelly Bryant, Ms. Angela Marsh for Brian Hairston, Dr. Morris Bramlett, Ms. Carol Dolberry and Ms. Mary Whiting.

The minutes of the October 29, 2013 meeting were approved.

The Council discussed retention ideas.

- The Arts and Humanities Modern Languages program (available for four years) will have 8 graduates this spring.
- Composition I and II faculty have been having workshops to address uniformity in all sections of these courses with a set of standard requirements that will be more relevant to the 21 century and digital technology. Beginning Spring 2014, there will be trainings for all English faculty to bring them up to date with the new standards.
- A tutoring blog was set up to assist students in chemistry where a tutor attended the class with plans for students to interact on the blog later. There was not much interaction via the blog, but the tutor is having more face-to-face interactions in the hallways, classroom, or tutoring lab. The Math blog is working similarly. There is a tutor for Music Theory I who will also tutor in Theory II in the spring.

Ms. Whiting discussed the Marketing Committee's new theme/logo: Yes You Can. There will be commercials with the new theme stressing experience, affordability, and traditions. There will also be changes to the website in the near future. Ms. Whiting also noted that high school enrollments in all surrounding high schools is low, a 16 percent decrease from 2006-2013.

Ms. Dolberry noted that the use of permission numbers through WeevilNet seems to be working, and she hopes to add additional use of these permission numbers in later semesters.

Dr. Yeiser asked deans to remind faculty to encourage students to use CoursEval, the online student evaluation of teaching module.

Dr. Eubanks mentioned that HLC would be looking to confirm that online courses are comparable to face-to-face courses regarding time spent in each. She suggested that deans begin thinking how this could be proved to HLC in their own courses.

Dr. Yeiser mentioned catastrophic leave donation forms were due December 5. Anyone can donate up to 40 hours of unused leave. Eighty hours of leave must be maintained with a maximum of 240 vacation and 960 sick leave hours.

The final exam schedule is in each folder. Exams must be held during the times noted on the schedules with no variations. Do not change classrooms for the exams unless noted on the

schedule. A student who needs to take an exam early should complete the Request to Take Final Exam Early form.

Fall 2013 final grades are due no later than 10 a.m. on Monday, December 16.

Academic Affairs electronically sends the templates to be used for online and face-to-face syllabi. There needs to be a hybrid template developed.

The following Curriculum and Standards proposals were presented:

- School of Education proposals for a new B.A. K-6 (replaces the P-4) curriculum; modifications to the B.A. in Middle Childhood, and the Bachelor of Science in Teaching and Learning were approved.
- School of Social and Behavioral Sciences proposal to add PSCI 3xx3 World Conflict and Terrorism as a regular course was approved pending a syllabus being completed. The Council approved adding this course to the B.A. Identity Requirements list. Other proposals from Social and Behavioral Sciences were tabled.

Dr. Yeiser reminded the Council of Annual Evaluation deadlines and Promotion and Tenure deadlines and that Assembly will meet December 3.

Ms. Dolberry discussed use of Special Topics and Independent Study courses, noting that a Special Topics course is open to qualified students but an Independent Study course is generally offered for only one student. If a faculty member has 2-3 students who need independent study on the same topic, a Special Topics course should be developed and added to the schedule.

Dr. Bramlett noted that Ms. Lynn Fox, mathematics faculty, recently successfully defended her dissertation.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.