

Academic Council Meeting
August 6, 2015
9:30 a.m.
Library Conference Room A

Present: Dr. Jimmie Yeiser, Dr. Ranelle Eubanks, Dr. Rick Clubb, Mr. Mark Spencer, Dr. Lou James, Dr. Peggy Doss, Mr. Dan Boice, Dr. Laura Evans, Dr. Kelly Bryant, Mr. Brian Hairston, Dr. Morris Bramlett, Mr. Bob Ware, Ms. Carol Dolberry, Ms. Mary Whiting, and Ms. Rita Hyatt.

Dr. Yeiser welcomed Mr. Dan Boice to the Academic Council. Mr. Boice is the new Director of the Taylor Library.

The minutes of the July 15, 2015 meeting were approved.

The Council discussed retention and recruitment ideas.

- Ms. Whiting stated that we lost 10 students in one day due to events in the Monticello area and the university losing money due to performance funding.
- The Marketing Committee will use team recruitment this fall. We will have a group of faculty, staff and administration go to the surrounding areas and recruit students.
- CIS faculty are offering tutoring by upper classmates to help incoming freshman and sophomore students.
- M&S faculty are having good luck with tutoring in their unit. Some students will not use the tutoring service at Harris Hall.
- The university is moving forward with the development of the Honors Program.
- Textbooks will be available in the Library for 1000 level general education courses.
- Education faculty are using on-line reference in-lieu of purchasing textbook.

Dr. Yeiser provided the Council with a schedule of school mixers for the fall 2015 semester. Please encourage students and faculty to attend mixers as an opportunity to get acquainted with each other. Ms. Whiting will provide information on mixers at freshman and transfer student orientations and will have an ambassador at every mixer.

Ms. Dolberry asked that units check the schedule and remove STAFF from the fall schedule. She encouraged unit heads to have faculty verify there exists appropriate seating in every classroom. Ms. Dolberry noted that if a classroom needs to be changed to please notify the Registrar's Office before moving the class. Please encourage faculty to print class rosters daily and report attendance. If a student's name is not on the class roster, the student should be sent to the Registrar's Office.

Dr. Yeiser discussed annual self-faculty evaluations-retention. The university is trying to improve retention and graduation rates. Retention is everybody's job. Faculty are encouraged

to engage students in the classroom, and to provide good academic advising for every student. Dr. Yeiser is asking that we refine our thinking on the specifics of retention and advising as part of the annual self-evaluation process. Dr. Eubanks suggested that deans should discuss with faculty during PDW the need to define/clarity retention expectations and how it would be part of faculty annual evaluation. This topic will be discussed at our next meeting.

Dr. Yeiser reminded the Council that students who have preregistered for Fall 2015 can make schedule changes on August 10 and 17. Open registration for the Fall term is August 18; August 19 is the first day of class. The last day to register or add or change classes is August 21.

Dr. Yeiser provide the Council with revised online and face-to-face syllabi formats and stated these changes would be effective in the Spring 2016.

Dr. Yeiser stated that all faculty are to report to work on August 10, 2015.

Dr. Yeiser provided a copy of program for the Professional Development Week and asked deans to be ready to introduce their new faculty on August 11. Deans are to send a list of new faculty, staff and GA students to Ms. Hyatt.

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

Dr. Yeiser announced the Arkansas Dean's Conference September 21-22 at Lake DeGray.

The next Academic Council meeting will be Thursday, August 27, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the NEW Conference Room formerly known as the Music Technology Lab inside the Taylor Library.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.