

Deans Meeting – August 12, 2010

Present – A. Anderson, L. Boyer, S. Brown, A. Bunch, D. Cistola (for S. Thomas), R. Cook, W. Creasey, P. Cunningham, M. Dorsey, J. Geissler, G. Gilbert, P. Horns, L. Ingalls, C. Locklear, D. Mageean, R. Niswander, J. Norris, M. OHara, L. Patriarca, E. Poe, R. Reaves, L. Rhodes, C. Rich, M. Sheerer, J. Siguaw, M. Walker, D. Weismiller, A. White, D. White

General Announcements – M. Sheerer briefly discussed the following: 1) a plan to hire academic advisors from campus-based tuition funds is moving forward; 2) vacated EPA faculty lines continue to require a request to return the line to the unit, but all EPA-NT positions and SPA positions no longer requires such a request; 3) Scholar Teacher Awards – this year the deans and the division will commit funds for each award.

Academic Outreach Transition – W. Creasey reviewed activity relative to the transition of Academic Outreach to ITCS (see PPT slides).

Blackboard Upgrade & Smart Classroom Allocations – W. Creasey and A. Anderson reviewed the new features of BB 9.1 and the tentative project timeline (see PPT slides). W. Creasey also discussed classroom technology resources, the types of rooms available, challenges and projected expenditures for FY 2011 (see PPT slides).

Online Quality Working Group Report – D. Weismiller reviewed the policy statement from SACS and discussed the progress made by the working group. M. OHara reviewed the draft Faculty and Course Regulation for Distance Education (see handout). The deans asked about the status of the training modules and the timeline for training; those elements are still in development. There was also discussion about the level of faculty input and the role of the chair in terms of ensuring quality. Development of the applicable regulation is ongoing.

Course Coding – D. Weismiller, L. Rhodes, R. Reaves and C. Rich presented information about current coding practices and the complexities of coding courses and instructional methods (see handouts). Any change in practice impacts complex business processes across campus. In addition to the earlier directive regarding changing course codes, the following steps were proposed: 1) define the standard (part of this process involves the creation of a large group to establish definitions – the deans were asked to recommend participants); 2) ask the Provost to endorse a statement regarding teaching the course as coded; 3) required training for all personnel entering course codes; 4) review current instructional codes and simplify whenever possible; and 5) when possible, assign instructors when courses are coded. There was also discussion about conducting informal audits now by examining current class schedules and identifying potential problems. A. Anderson reminded the group of the risks relative to VA benefits.

UNIV 1000 – A. White and M. Walker discussed the working group's recommendations, which include: 1) requiring all freshmen to enroll; 2) creating discipline specific sections; and 3) staffing the course with line faculty. The group also discussed the appropriate class size, the curriculum process and the possibility of supplementing the course with online modules. The report now goes to the Retention and Graduation Task Force.

University Studies – A. Bunch reviewed the revisions made to the proposal (see handout); specifically the removal of two minors as an option. J. Siguaw and her colleagues in CHE agreed to initiate the program approval process for the proposed Bachelor of University Studies.

Items Tabled: 1) Emerging Academic Initiatives Update (E. Poe); 2) Position Allocation Proposal (A. White); 3) Contract Letters for Chairs (M. Sheerer) & 4) Faculty Working at a Distance (M. Sheerer)

Action Items: 1) Deans will email D. Weismiller potential participants for the course coding working group and 2) Academic Council will discuss question of access during the football season with VC Dowdy.