

Deans' Council Minutes
February 20, 2004

Present: Thad Anglin, Mary Hendrix, Hal Langford, Finnie Murray, Ed Seifert, Joe Webber, and Joyce Scott

Absent: Elton Stetson

1. **Review 1st Year Probationary Faculty** – Deans' Council completed review and made recommendations to the Provost.
2. **ROTC** – Joe Webber reported he contacted Major Kevin Smith from UT-Arlington and received a faxed copy of the original agreement dated 1989. According to Major Smith the agreement is still in place and shall continue until dissolved by our President. **ACTION:** Provost will brief the President, agreement needs updating (Thad), implementation plan is needed (Thad and Joe) and advertise the opportunity.
3. **Degree Audit Policy** - Deferred
4. **Assistant vs. Associate Dean Titles** – Deans unanimously approved the definition of an Associate Dean – *a senior faculty member who is able to move directly into the Dean's position, if necessary.*
5. **THECB – Promoting Excellence in Texas Public Higher Education Through Institutional Groupings, Peers, and Benchmarks (Concept Paper)**
Texas' *Closing the Gaps* plan calls for each public higher education institution to engage in an ongoing pursuit of excellence. A strategy for carrying out that goal relies on the selection of institutional peers and benchmarks of performance against which progress can be measured. Because Texas has a wide variety of institutions, the state will need to develop an approach that acknowledges institutional differences, yet focuses on attaining and enhancing excellence in a broad range of important tasks.
6. **THECB – Agenda Item X-C**
Progress Report on the Study of Doctoral Education in Texas Public Institutions of Higher Education
The Coordinating Board's Formula Advisory Committee is conducting a doctoral cost study and state review of all doctoral programs to determine if institutions produce more graduates than market needs. Doctoral programs are expensive to establish and maintain. Training may not be what students want or need.
7. **THECB – Agenda Item X-D (1) (2)**
Consideration of Review of Mission Statements and Tables of Programs for: 1) The University of Texas System's General Academic Institutions, and 2) All Texas Public Health-Related Institutions
The approval of Missions Statements and Tables of Programs provides the Coordinating Board with a means to exercise its overall strategic guidance for the array and distribution of academic programs that universities offer the people of Texas. The process also provides a framework for academic planning by institutions and governing boards.
8. **Bonfire** – Provost reported the President has moved the responsibility to the Dean of Students beginning Fall 04. The Dean will work with the Associate Vice President for Facilities, Chief of Police, University Safety Officer and the Chair(s) of the Homecoming Committee to see that the bonfire is constructed and burnt in a safe manner.
9. **UCD Enrollment** – Mary Hendrix reported the overall enrollment at UCD is declining although A&M-Commerce's continues strong. In the absence of a lease agreement (since August), selection of an alternative site may be necessary.

10. **Orientation Proposal** – Mary Hendrix reported a planning committee met last week to discuss changes in the Orientation process. In the past, an emphasis has been on registration instead of development. We need to focus on what students need academically and help them make wise decisions. Suggestions from Planning Committee: students are pre-advised, students receive a dummy schedule according to their major, students have a checklist of housing choices/meal plans, students are released to their college for faculty advisement, students are given the opportunity to register online, students receive a complete bill and have an opportunity to make a payment, and students have an opportunity to purchase their books. Suggestions from Deans: faculty receives funding for travel instead of stipends and all freshmen are required to take FSS classes.

11. **A11.39 Course Requirements for the Master's Degree** - Deferred

12. **Proposal to Modify Admission Requirements for Master of Science Degree in Industrial Technology** - Deferred

13. **Proposal to Improve Stipends and Services to Graduate Assistants** - Deferred

14. **Targeting Seniors for Roll-Over Scholarships** - Deferred

15. **University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (Call for Nominations)**
Information distributed to the deans.

16. **Loss to Texas Grants – impact?** – Thad Anglin reported funding was cut by \$700,000 in FY03; 300 students incurred more debt. Funding for FY05 should be known soon.

17. **THECB – Agenda Item IX-A**

Formula Funding (finalize list of courses that fit exemption category outlined on page 6) – Provost reported we need feedback from Business and Technology and Arts and Sciences for realistic fix on cost of courses repeated. The estimated cost of courses repeated is \$150,000 from first analysis; this revenue would be lost under legislative directive.

18. **SACS Update** - The following action was taken at the December 2003 meeting of the Commission on Colleges. The Commission reaffirmed accreditation with a request for a Follow-Up Report due September 22, 2004, addressing the visiting committee's recommendations cited in the following sections of the *Principles*:

Section 3.31 (Institutional Effectiveness), Recommendation 1

Provide an update concerning the implementation and review of the new evaluation system scheduled for deployment in fall 2004.

Section 3.31 (Institutional Effectiveness), Recommendation 2

The concern in this section involved the equivalency of student learning between the traditional and off-campus programs of study. The institution is asked to demonstrate the quality of student achievement in these two types of learning environments.

Section 3.5.1 (Educational Programs: Undergraduate Programs), Recommendation 3

Provide evidence that the action plan showing graduates of degree programs are competent in the basic use of computers has been fully implemented and evaluated.

Section 3.4.1 (Educational Programs: All Educational Programs), Recommendation 4

Document that a plan to review and the graduate curriculum has been implemented and evaluated.

Section 3.31 (Institutional Effectiveness), Recommendation 5

Provide evidence that the orientation and advisement programs are regularly evaluated and that the results are used to enhance student services.

Announcement:

University Day is scheduled for Saturday, February 21 with an expected attendance of 400 students. The university is providing transportation for our adopted schools.