

Deans' Council Minutes

June 9th, 2004

1. **Accountability for A&M System**-the Council reviewed the handout from the Chancellor and discussed the general accountability plan for the A&M System. The campus will be asked to generate some indicators to fit our mission and the *Closing the Gaps* goals.
2. **Enrollment Reports – Thad Anglin** reported on enrollment for the summer sessions and the fall semester. All indications are that enrollment will be up by a modest rate. Members discussed the effectiveness of Senior Roll-Over scholarships and other strategies.
3. **Code of Ethics** – Council discussed the issue of ethics on campus and how to address the problems related to academic dishonesty. Dean Stetson reported that the fall Federation meeting would focus on ethics and that planners were trying to get speakers from the Center for Academic Integrity at Duke. Deans noted that academic dishonesty and plagiarism are widespread and not random with papers available for a price on the Internet. Brian Nichols will attend a conference on the topic at the end of the month and return with topics. Deans concur that we need to raise the issue with student government and faculty governance.
4. **Drug and alcohol awareness** – Dean Joe Webber briefed the group on increase in binge drinking among students and issue of peer pressure. We need to be intrusive and work more on alcohol education. Suggested were using the *East Texan* and campus newsletter to discuss the issue this fall.
5. **Meeting with Minority Organization Advisors** - Joyce Scott reported on a recent meeting with advisors of minority student organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to improve relations with campus personnel and student groups, especially with reference to social events and utilization of university facilities. Suggestions for additional areas of improvement are invited.
6. **Prospective Changing Federal Labor Standards for GATs and GANTs** – Any change in the law will not be determined until August. However, if there is a change, the university will have to classify graduate assistants as non-exempt employees and observe the following guidelines:
 - 20 hours per week with time sheet
 - Excess hours mean comp time or overtime pay
 - Excess hours will be billed to departmental budget
7. **Salary Plan FY05** – The group reviewed the President's proposal to the Chancellor, which has been approved and which stipulates faculty and staff raises depend on enrollment.
8. **Extended University** – The Provost raised the question of reorganization and sought Deans' input. All agreed that it was important to preserve the CEU capability.
9. **Academic Support to Improve Retention** – Dean Anglin reported on the need for more help from the academic sector for retention. 24% of FTFT frosh are on academic probation or suspension with 21% of students with no holds remaining un-registered for fall semester. We

need to consider academic support strategies that will help retention—freshman seminars, better management of class loads, etc. Deans are asked to consider and make recommendations.

10. **Board of Regents Agenda** – Members reviewed the Board agenda and noted program changes at other campuses.

11. **VME Policy and Practice**—The Provost reviewed the policy and campus practice, reminding deans that 5 years is maximum term. She will be reviewing all requests closely and asking for shorter timelines since the university must reserve the funding for the full period even though many faculty decide not to invoke the VME year after year.

12. **Graduate Program Review**—Dean Stetson distributed a revised procedure for Council review. He will consult with in-coming Dean Headley and bring comments back to the next meeting, at which time there will be full discussion.

13. **New Faculty Orientation**—Deans discussed how the institution prepares new faculty to work with our students. It was agreed that more was needed at start of semester, perhaps tied to faculty meetings. For example, topics could be: attendance policies, university studies, student behavior problems, faculty rights and responsibilities in the classroom. How to handle inappropriate student behavior, incivility, in the classroom.