

Deans' Council Minutes--May 10, 2005

Texas Success Initiative Survey - Dr. Scott & Mary Hendrix reported that the Coordinating Board had issued a report based on the data collected on their statewide survey on developmental education. Staff will summarize the report and the implications of same for the way we handle developmental education at A&M-Commerce and bring that information to the deans. It is likely that the THECB report will bring changes to the management of developmental education on the campus.

Math 131 (Remedial Math) Update - Dr. Doughty & Dr. Kreminski briefed the council on various efforts to improve student performance in Math 131 courses. Dr. Kreminski indicated efforts included "gateway quizzes;" assistance from the Counseling Center on time management, test anxiety and other issues; observation of classes by Education faculty; supplemental instruction; self-paced instruction. After data have been assembled on student performance for spring 2005, there will be another report to the deans.

"Distribution of Faculty Time" - Attachment - Joyce Scott shared data from a THECB report on distribution of faculty by rank across the levels of instruction. Trends include a diminishing involvement of professors and associate professors with lower-division courses and increasing use of adjunct and non-tenured faculty for these same students/courses.

"Declining Interest in Computer Science" – The Provost shared some articles on student interests and national competitiveness in a global market where other nations are pushing technology.

Course Fees - Terry Pankratz briefed deans on the definition of the "course fee" as a fee intended to cover the incremental cost to deliver a single course and how that differed from broader program fees. We will account for course fees by course in the future, and if a piece of equipment is acquired for several courses, its cost may be distributed proportionally across several course fee accounts.

Proposed 22 Security SAP's - Terry Pankratz outlined the state requirements for information resource security, including changed passwords every 90 days and a host of other procedures. These will be implemented in August 2005. Updates will be provided as further information becomes available.

Self Assessment Certification - Terry Pankratz noted that department heads and division directors will be required to certify annually their accountability as managers of institutional resources. A checklist of 18 items will be introduced for managers to sign off and acknowledge their responsibility.

Good of the Order:

- **Business** is introducing Entrepreneurial Experience (service learning) in the fall. The college will be offering business courses in Rockwall and at Collin County CC in the fall.
- The **Library** is investigating addition of a coffee shop on site; they are exploring the use of a subscription to an electronic library to support off-campus programs; and they are making good progress on accessioning books given to Commerce from the College Station Library. It is expected that 50-60% of the books will be added to the Commerce collection.
- **Arts and Sciences** is working on American Chemical Society approval process and seeking support for the new Planetarium from corporate sponsors.
- **Graduate School** reports that the THECB Graduate Advisory Committee met. Staff indicated that Texas has too many campuses with doctoral programs and will set 6-7 criteria for planning new doctoral programs. Campuses wishing to introduce new doctorates will be required to demonstrate effective operations in all campus programs, including developmental education. Other criteria will include partnering with other institutions, advancing the goals of Closing the Gaps, and niche specialties.
- **Education and Human Services** has received a \$1.2 million grant from the Texas Education Agency to provide professional development programs to nine ISD's in south Dallas. The dean is preparing a agenda of programs and activities to circulate to the ISD's and will report more details at the next meeting. In addition, the reorganization is proceeding well.