

Deans' Council Minutes--August 30, 2005

Commencements – Paige Bussell reviewed numbers of participants for the summer and December events. After discussion, the group concluded that the Fergusson Auditorium could handle up to 250 participants with 4 tickets per graduate. Participants average 140 in summers, so all undergraduate ceremonies can be combined into one morning event, to be followed by the doctoral luncheon at noon. In December, if the number of participants exceeds 250, two ceremonies are needed in the morning for undergraduates—Arts & Sciences and Business & Technology in one and Education & Human Services in the other. Deans also discussed the desirability of bringing all students together and concluded that only the Field House would serve this purpose. There would be only one preparation, one speaker and one community together to celebrate this important event in our students' lives. Recommendations will go to the President.

Class Room Assignments for Fall 2005 – The Provost reviewed the status of classroom assignments and closures. Deans noted some changing going on but mostly conducted with good humor and a helpful attitude.

Spreading the schedule – The Provost shared a summary of the number of class sections meeting in approved time slots and those that are scheduled outside regular time slots and without regard to classroom use guidelines.. Currently 62% of classes are scheduled in the approved calendar with 38% not, including science labs which use larger time blocks. There are three MWF and two TR time blocks that are **overscheduled**, creating conflicts for students: MWF at 9 (74 sections), 10 (68 sections), and 11 (76 sections); TR at 9:30-10:45 (94 sections) and 11-12:15 (78 sections). Deans will consider how to spread the schedule and reduce the number of small classes.

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Graduate Recruiting – Jon Travis outlined a plan for recruiting graduate students that would involve faculty and Department heads, personalized letters to inquiries, and greater use of University marketing services.

On-Campus Curriculum Review for Establishing New Minors – Discussion was deferred until the next meeting. Deans did identify, however, several areas where TAMUC policies seem out of step with quality: no limit on number of 2-year college credits applied to a bachelors degree; no minimum requirement for upper-division coursework in a bachelors degree; minimal expectations expressed through very late drop and withdrawal dates, the number of drops allowed, etc.; and failure to include the grades for developmental courses in the overall gpa; liberal policies for drops for students in developmental courses.

Faculty Involvement with Major Scholarship Programs – Deferred until next meeting.

Computer Labs – Deans addressed the proliferation of computer labs on the campus and light use in many areas. TAMUC needs to re-evaluate how to provide general access to computing resources as well as how much it should invest in specialized labs. Discussion will continue with consultation with Michael Cagle and Charlotte Larkin.

New copier policy/acquisition -- David McKenna briefed the Deans on the strategy for providing quality copier services to the campus with a variety of machines and modes of acquisition—lease, rental, purchase. TAMUC is negotiating with Xerox for a campus-wide agreement. More details will be available soon

Legislation Affecting Higher Education – Mary Hendrix reviewed HB 1172 and impact for students who take more than 30 hours above the minimum for their degrees. They would be required to pay out-of-state tuition beyond the 30 hours.

Continuing Education – Deans asked about a formal mechanism for organizing and promotion non-credit courses.

GPA Requirement for Activities/Sports – Dean Webber indicated that there are standards, just not a procedure. He will share relevant information with Deans and a draft procedure will be prepared for review.