

University Executive Council
March 28, 2017 | BA 290 | 1:30 p.m.

- University Update (Ray Keck)
 - National Development Board
 - Next meeting on April 17th
 - After reception for Andrew Young
 - Freshman Year Program (TRACs)
 - Spearheaded by Drs. Tabettha Adkins and Ricky Dobbs
 - Focus has previously been on graduation; this program will focus on retention
 - Our students are often first generation students from families of low socioeconomic status
 - Ideas primarily came from three committees
 - First year TRAC (Transforming Relationships and Academic Connections)
 - Attend new student orientation
 - Attend Lion Camp (this has never before been required)
 - Mentor groups
 - 48 groups of 20
 - Each will be a “house” named for a prominent figure in the history of the university
 - Staff mentors
 - Common read book
 - Approximately 200 pages
 - Author will come to campus
 - Students will receive the book at orientation
 - Work with the book will be done throughout Lion Camp and in the mentor group
 - Attend first year TRAC events
 - Take a signature course with a distinguished professor
 - A call will go out for proposals once approved by Faculty Senate
 - Six sessions in the Fall and six in the Spring
 - 100 students in each section
 - Mentor groups will be paired with courses to ensure that students will be able to register
 - Must coordinate with success coaches
 - Will take in the Spring if not available in the Fall
 - 10:00 MWF for signature courses
 - Mentors will be needed for the Fall; please be ready to make recommendations
 - Signature courses will take the place of the SPCH course in the degree plan for incoming freshmen
 - State does not allow much leeway for changing core curriculum; this was the best available way to incorporate the signature courses
 - SPCH is not a requirement for all majors
 - Look for ways to link the common read to your course
 - MarComm can incorporate these ideas into our marketing plan/branding
- Compliance Training Initiative (Heidi Wright)
 - Courses designed to mitigate risk identified in the office
 - Majority of issues are related to leadership management
 - Supervisor Course offered
 - Suggested for new supervisors
 - Highly rated and suggested to others by those that attended

- Compliance Week will be taking place in November
- Contact the Compliance office if you have any suggestions for a course or if you have any needs
- 2017 New Student Orientation Session Dates and Reminders (Shonda Gibson)
 - Scheduled and posted
 - 129% increase from last year's orientation enrollment
- Updates (Shonda Gibson)
 - TargetX
 - Customer management system
 - On schedule to go live this week
 - Mane Event Report, and Seeking Feedback
 - Record attendance (15% increase over last year)
 - Over half the students are already admitted
 - Email Kristen Neeley or Dr. Gibson with any suggestions
 - Consider University hours changes for Mane Event
 - Sodexo and other locations closed by 2:00 p.m.
 - Campus looked dead immediately after the event was over
 - Request that leadership stay longer to be sure that all students are served (even if they arrive late)
 - Maybe some University departments should be open the Saturday of Mane Event
 - More Academic Affairs employees should be invited to join the committee
 - Send suggestions to Shonda
 - The next meeting is next week
 - Applied and Admitted Data
 - Up 26% in processed applications
 - Up 25% in admissions
 - These students need to be enrolled
 - All Deans and Department Heads will get the admitted students report
 - Dr. Gibson has some funding to assist in efforts to enroll admitted students
 - UEC RESPONSE: Graduate enrollment concerns
 - Domestic enrollment is up, but international is down
 - International students are largely graduate students
 - Indian students in particular are not enrolling at previous levels; undergraduate decrease of 57%
 - This trend will continue
 - Press from the presidential election has been a boon to international enrollment in Canada
 - Previous international enrollment due to recruitment organization was unsustainable
 - CoSE scholarships (Funding Your Future scholarship) bring in students, but the funding is not guaranteed each year
 - Jacques Fuqua will visit UTD to see how their programs work
 - No international recruiter and no dedicated international recruiting budget
 - John Mark Jones departure
 - Jacques Fuqua, Ginger Gonzales, and Dawn McPherson will handle all duties between them
 - A temp or two may be able to be hired with non-state funds
 - April 11th is the International Festival
 - Leadership should attend to show support
 - Dr. Keck will attend at the beginning

- Enrollment Data
 - 591 students were called because they had not yet enrolled, and many did enroll
 - Registration dates for Summer and Fall
 - Began for graduate and doctoral students on March 20th
 - Began for seniors and second bachelor students on March 22nd
 - Began for juniors on March 27th
 - Begins for freshmen on March 29th
- Financial Aid Offers and Acceptance
 - \$2 million in offers; \$1 million accepted
 - This year, moved toward offering aid based on class rank
 - Diversified the student base offered financial aid
 - Top 25%; rewarded heavily
 - Data suggest that class rank and scholarship money are predictors of success
 - This new system in combination with the TRAC program should increase retention and graduation rates
 - Finished with scholarships unless new money is found
 - Non-returning student surveys show that the cause is often small amounts of money (a thousand or two dollars)
 - A one-time forgiveness scholarship has been considered
 - This has been done at other institutions
- Downtown Dallas Facility
 - Looking to get out of that facility
 - There is a clause in the agreement that allows A&M-Commerce to back out if the appropriation funding for UNT were removed
 - We could use one-time funds to buy out
 - Rockwall facility is closing in December
- Housing and food costs will not be raised
- RSC Patio Awning
 - Will be split between student service fees and Sodexo
 - On hold until hearing word from the legislature
- Upcoming Reporting Deadlines
 - A&M-Commerce is ranked higher if we respond to NSF and NIH surveys
 - If your area is asked to complete a survey, send to IE
- Announcements
 - Summer Hours Survey (Jeremy Gamez)
 - Almost 700 responses
 - Largely in favor of the summer schedule
 - UEC RESPONSE: need to be sure that we provide a healthy customer service environment
 - 8 of the 12 weeks have Friday orientations
 - Community members may see University employees as having “luxurious” positions which may send the wrong message in light of the state of the legislature
 - There is a University procedure which allows for flexible scheduling
 - UEC Schedule
 - Shift to weekly meetings to be sure to fit all business into each meeting
 - About an hour with a preference for Mondays
 - Sam Walker in New Role
 - Executive Director for Alumni Engagement
 - Alumni chapter formation

- Freshmen recruitment
- Athletic Fee Referendum
 - It is on track
 - If this fails, it will raise the cost of admission
 - Maybe a mistake to include the possibility of using funds to build an event center
- Ian Lockwood
 - Driving creative force behind downtown Sulphur Springs
 - Presented University, City, and community with ideas for improving Commerce
 - Very attainable ideas and plans
 - Roundabouts at Culver and 24/50 and Live Oak and 24/50
- Legislative Session
 - No indication of the impact yet
- Hall of Languages Rededication
 - April 18th
 - UEC RESPONSE: there is a lot of confusion on campus about this event (when and where)
- 100th Anniversary Celebration
 - Thank you to those who organized the event
 - Some of the speeches were cut from the program
 - Those individuals received apologies from President Keck
 - Decision was made to cut out some of the speeches to shorten the program since most people were standing (rather than seated as would have happened had the event been held outside)
- Tarrant County Alumni Reception in Fort Worth
 - May 4th, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the River Crest Country Club
- Lizette Espina, speaker from Cuba, on campus April 3rd