

Academic Deans' Council
April 20, 2017
Provost's Conference Room
Minutes

Present: C. Gascoigne, C. Jones, K. Livengood, J. Miazga, P. Swets, S. Tomlin, D. Topliff, J. Wegner

Minutes:

1. Topic: Minutes from April 13, 2017
Minutes approved as is.

Announcements:

- D. Topliff noted there are many events going on now and he encouraged members to attend as many as they can to support the students.

Old Business:

2. Topic: Marketable Skills (D. Topliff)
 - D. Topliff informed members the marketable skills issue was discussed again at his TCCAO meeting. He reminded members TCCAO decided to collaborate to create standards and a state-wide committee was formed to come up with marketable skills for communication and the result was 38 marketable skills. Concerns arose so the project was put off.
 - By 2020 ASU must have a list of marketable skills for every program and it must be posted on-line. Departments need to be working on this and need to keep it as simple as possible.
3. Topic: Budget (D. Topliff)
 - D. Topliff told members the committee to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the budget is meeting next week.
 - There are several classrooms on the refresh list. 9 in the Academic building, 1 in Carr, 3 in Cavness, 4 in Rassman, and 7 in MCS. Trying to use in-house labor for classroom refresh work did not work out and an outside company was hired to do the labor.
 - Software Budget Update. Until budget is settled ASU will not purchase any new software.
 - Blackboard contract is being renegotiated.
 - GradesFirst contract will be changed from 3 years to 2 years.
 - Salesforce has an advisor piece.
 - SPSS license renewal cost has risen from \$3,000 a year to \$49,000. There was some discussion.
 - E-Learning support issues are being worked on.

New Business:

4. Topic: Dr. May
 - B. May said he was here today because the VP and Deans' meeting was cancelled yesterday and he wanted to make sure he touched base with the deans. He stated that

ASU will continue to grow and everything will be fine even with the budget/political issues out of Austin right now.

- Construction and the resultant parking issues were discussed. The shuttle service from the remote parking is used by about 3 people a day but the service will continue to run. B. May said there will be a push in the fall to increase use of the service and perhaps an incentive of dramatically lowering the cost of parking in that particular lot. There was a brief discussion about changing some current A/B lots to just A lots around the CHP, Rassman, and MCS buildings.
- Up-coming construction projects were discussed in brief. All projects are being paid out of HEAF funds.
 - Greenhouse – construction will start in the fall and will be located between the Academic and Cavness buildings.
 - Academic Building – all the concrete will be removed and redone. Brick and brush-smoothed concrete will be used.
 - Sidewalks – a contract to redo all the sidewalks on campus has been signed. The aggregate will be removed and replaced with brush-smoothed concrete.
 - Bathrooms – bathrooms across campus are currently being remodeled to bring them up to ADA standards. There is a plan in place for more bathroom remodels of other buildings to be done over the course of the next couple years.

5. Topic: H-1B Issues (D. Topliff)

- D. Topliff told members H-1Bs may take up to nine months for approval. Deans and department chairs need to be aware of this and the possibility of frequent changes made by the government since they announced they are reviewing the program. There was a brief discussion on when it is allowable to ask questions during the hiring process about the need for visa services. D. Topliff said he will speak with K. Neal to get guidance on this issue.

6. Topic: Low Producing Programs (D. Topliff)

- D. Topliff informed members the THECB website has a table of low producing programs. It was noted the THECB lost the authority to do anything about low producing programs but are attempting to get that authority back. There was a brief discussion.

7. Topic: New Program Approvals (D. Topliff)

- D. Topliff informed members R. Paredes of the THECB spoke at the TCCAO meeting. R. Paredes cautioned TCCAO members about new program approvals because they were diluting support from the Legislature. There was a brief discussion.

8. Topic: Employment System Upgrade (D. Topliff)

- D. Topliff asked members to share the email they received from Human Resources with their department chairs.

9. Topic: Graduate SLOs (D. Topliff)

- D. Topliff said the Graduate Studies and Research website has a list of Graduate Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). Deans were tasked with getting SLOs for every Graduate program. Reporting structure and role of Graduate Studies and Research will be worked out.

Roundtable

Kim Livengood

- Reminded members the Faculty Senate meeting is next week.

Paul Swets

- Informed members of meetings with vendors regarding virtual science labs.
- Title V HSI grant proposal will be sent to Provost and it revolves around Mechanical Engineering.

Sharynn Tomlin

- Inquired about offering a GS 1181 course that is major specific and requiring all students in that major to take it. There was some discussion. General consensus was opposed to requiring students to take specific GS 1181 courses and the courses should be subject specific but not major specific for various reasons.

Adjournment