

Academic Deans' Council

July 27, 2021 - Provost's Conference Room – Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Present: S. Clouse, C. Jones, J. Klingemann, L. Mayrand, N. Negovetich, M. Salisbury, P. Swets, A. Tiger, D. Topliff, J. Wegner.

Minutes:

1. Topic: Minutes from June 29, 2021.
Minutes approved.

Announcements

- The Provost informed members the possibility of spending ARP funding on students who owe the University money from the 2021 spring semester is being looked into. He said a decision by the President and Vice Presidents will be made soon. The money owed by students range from \$5.00 up to over \$1,000. If debt is waived, it must be waived for all and reenrollment cannot be a condition for waiver.

Old Business:

2. Topic: NSO/Enrollment (J. Wegner)
 - J. Wegner said the last NSO session was yesterday and went mostly smoothly. He said 1,316 schedules were built with only 148 not yet accepted by the student. No complaints from students about the process have been received.
 - J. Wegner said TSI scores have not been made available yet. The t-sections in English have been maxed out on spaces available. More sections may be added.
 - J. Wegner informed members the first-year retention is about 68% and the second-year retention is about 55%. He said the end of the moratorium on evictions may affect some students.
3. Topic: Budget (D. Topliff)
 - D. Topliff said the budget is balanced and finalized. Some items not funded may be paid for using other fund sources. For example, lab equipment may be purchased using instructional enhancement funds.

New Business:

4. Topic: Professional Coaches (D. Topliff)
 - D. Topliff informed members the Texas Tech System is providing funds if members want a professional coach to help manage duties. He said this opportunity may be extended to department chairs. More information on this new program will be forthcoming.
5. Topic: Student Leadership Development (D. Topliff)
 - D. Topliff said J. Flores is in charge of developing this program. It will be piloted this fall semester for twenty students, ten of which are already in leadership positions. This program is based on the program at Rice University. D. Topliff said the pilot program will be assessed by an outside group. More information on the program will be distributed soon.
6. Topic: Faculty and Student Travel (D. Topliff)
 - D. Topliff said approval of travel has not yet been established. The process currently in place is still to be followed. He said he will inform members if any changes are made.

8. Topic: Potential COVID Protocols (D. Topliff)

- D. Topliff informed members between Saturday, Sunday, and Monday there were 150 new cases in Tom Green County with twenty-one hospitalized and one death. He said as of yesterday five off-campus students tested positive. All five are athletes and were asymptomatic.
- D. Topliff said the President, all Vice Presidents, and the Director of Risk Management are having regular discussions. He said messaging will go out today or tomorrow to encourage vaccination and the wearing of masks. There is no requirement for vaccination or mask wearing nor are they “strongly encouraged”.
- D. Topliff said the fall semester has been scheduled at 100% classroom capacity. Options if have to change that will be to go to hybrid classes or 100% online. There was some discussion. D. Topliff said if faculty have an issue teaching face-to-face, they will need to apply for ADA accommodations.
- D. Topliff said contact tracing is still ongoing and the daily wellness app is being updated. There is no plan to require daily wellness screening at this time. He said to plan face-to-face events for this academic year. He reiterated all guidance is as of today and can change at any moment.

Adjournment