

College of Education and Behavioral Science
Academic Chairs Council Meeting Minutes
January 29th, 2024, 10:00 am
Ed/Comm 330

2. Dr. Hux reminded the leadership team that faculty within departments are responsible for writing their own SPA reports. Kathryn and Brit are responsible for gathering the data from the program's key assessments NOT writing the reports.

Faculty are also responsible for writing the Neuventive reports for HLC.

3. Dr. McGregor shared a new student conference travel application with the leadership team. The committee provided feedback about the form. Dr. McGregor will make the necessary corrections and send the form back to the leadership team for distribution.

4. Budget: Summer and Fall revenue sharing have not been released. The Office of Academic Affairs is requesting patience.

Dr. Pimpleton-Gray noted that the Psych and Counseling renovations are on hold until after the BS psych committee completes their interviews.

6. The advising playbook was sent to everyone. Please send feedback to Dr. McGregor

7. A-State of Success is now the new advising process. ITS will change the names of academic advisors for all COEBS students to Mandy and Taylor. The faculty names will be removed. The departments need to decide who will be faculty mentors. The mentor can be one individual or all faculty members. This role does not include advising students about academics. Members of the leadership team are asked to inform the Dean's office of the names of their department academic mentors.

Dr. Hux noted there are lots of curriculum changes coming through from most departments. The chairs are asked to meet with the academic advisors to inform them of the upcoming changes.

8. When hiring ABD faculty members in a tenure track line, should the department consider allowing research conducted before moving into the tenure track line. The leadership team discussed the matter and decided there should be a college-wide policy regarding this matter. However, no decision was made.

ADC Updates

ABD faculty members experience a \$5,000 reduction in salary, and they are hired as instructors until they enter the tenure track line. Dr. Hux believes this should NOT be standard practice. She will advocate that we no longer enforce the reduction of salary. If the applicant does not complete their degree within the agreed upon designated time-period, their contract will be terminated.

Do students have liability insurance when they go out to shadow or do their internship? Students can obtain this insurance by joining a professional organization. The college should consider adding a course fee to cover liability insurance. PEP can also verify that the student has purchased the insurance.

RTT is hosting a five-day intensive grant writing workshop. Faculty will be paid during the Maymester to attend the workshop. Meals will also be provided. The attendees are expected to write a grant next year. The dates for the workshops are May 14, 15, 16, 19, 20.

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The football and basketball suites will be hosted through the Provost's office. McGregor will call about the bookings.

Course Dog is now used for all on-campus room assignments, including classrooms. It will go live Spring 26. The program should be able to indicate whether additional sections or seats should be offered. The Provost wants to make sure we are following a 10-80-10 rule. Individuals within each department should be trained on the courseware. All classroom space will be audited. The university will hire an individual dedicated to overseeing all classroom spaces on campus. This person will also oversee social scheduling for spaces like the student union. Kassie will be the college's point of contact for Course Dog. Faculty cannot change their classes after they have been assigned through Course Dog. Classes can be changed if there are technical issues or accessibility issues. All departments should offer courses MWF and TR.

Deans were reminded that the state of Arkansas is an at-will employment state. Terminations or leaves can occur without an explanation. Tenured faculty can be removed from their positions, but a process must be followed.

The chairs, dean's, and associate deans are all appointed and can be removed from their leadership positions at any time.

The Provost has \$900,000 in infrastructure money. Finance has requested these monies but the Provost wants to purchase big-ticket items using these funds. Much of these funds will go to agriculture to address ADA compliance issues.

An email will come from the Provost's office outlining the due dates for spending and the end-of-fiscal-year deadlines.

The Arkansas Legislative body is reviewing the educational funding model. So, we will need to focus more on recruitment.

Department Updates

Dr. Wheeler-Gryffin (HPESS): The new anatomy table should arrive in a few weeks. It should be ready for use by August. The department has two searches going for new faculty members. Applicants will be on campus in Feb. Department curriculum proposals are going through the UPC process which will result in some schedule changes for the Fall.

Dr. Pimpleton-Gray (Psych and Counseling): School Counseling has hired a new faculty member. Clinical Mental Health has eight applicants for their open position. Most of the applicants are international. School Psychology is also hiring but only have one or two applicants. The BA psych program's search request is ready for submission. The BS psych committee will on candidates for interviews for the next two weeks. The Clinical Mental Health Counseling committee are still trying to hire an adjunct for the spring term.

CACREP accreditation: The program committee members are meeting to work on the documents to be submitted. The entire submission process is electronic. Dr. Bowser has volunteered to assist with the CACREP process.

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Dr. Grymes (TE): There will be a search for a faculty member for the Beebe campus. This will be an instructor line and a local hire. The department is working on program updates to be submitted through the curriculum process.

Dr. Shaw (ELCSE): Dr. Baker will be on sabbatical during Spring '26 to complete her research. There are about 30 curriculum changes being prepared for the curriculum process. All certificates in Ed Leadership are changing to 18 hours.

Dr. Rick Stripling has published a book.

Three SPA reports have been submitted for review and a fourth will be submitted next month.

Dr. Bowser (Outreach and Engagement): She has hired a person to work with summer camps. Currently reviewing which camps will be offered. They will be offered in the space provided by HPESS.

High-Quality Instruction Materials (HQMI) training for faculty will continue this semester. The first training session is on Friday, Jan. 31st.

The Character grant application is due Feb. 14th. Dr. Bowser is searching for an intern director for HOWL.

The partnership meeting should be held during Spring. The Nettleton collaboration on April 7th will be a showcase and awards but will also introduce another new group of students to the programs. It will be held at Nettleton instead of A-State, to accommodate more parents and students.

STEAMi has lost their accreditation and we have been asked to provide training and curriculum to help them regain their accreditation. There is desire to have a training school on campus. More to come on this.

Dr. McGregor (Dean's Office): Strategic plan is the next big project. Members of the Leadership team will serve on the writing committee. More to come.