

Academic Dean's Council
Wednesday, February 12, 2025
10:00 am

1. Abigail Speights-Hass visited with the leadership team and gave an overview of a new student event called Beyond the Books. There will be two sessions in Spring 25. The first session is scheduled for March 15th, and the second for April 5th. The event allows faculty and staff to introduce students to a classroom and other academic environments. The events will start at 10:00 am and end at 12:30 pm. The faculty involvement portion will begin at 10:40 am and end at noon. Admissions will sponsor a social hour for each college. This event takes the place of the previously held Jumpstart programs. Additionally, University College will start virtually enrolling new first-year students.
 - a. We need to brainstorm details for the March 15 event. The deadline should be finalized by March 1st
 - b. Abigail will email the event link and provide examples of college stickers for us.
 - c. Faculty and chairs do not have to attend the March 7th event. This will be the academic advisors.
2. Dr. Hux gave an overview of the budget. The current process used by Academic Affairs, for revenue sharing, will change in July. Departments should prepare.
3. **Grant Workshop Update:** Dr. Travis Marsico will have individuals apply for the new grant workshop. Accepted applicants will learn the basics of applying for external funding and are expected to submit a grant request upon completion of the workshop.
4. **Character Grant Update:** Dr. Bowser has done a fantastic job leading a team in writing the proposal for the Character Grant. The proposal is nearing completion and will be submitted on or before Feb. 14th. All eight colleges are committed to participating in the grant. CETL and OBRE have agreed to provide workshops, and FYE will integrate the curriculum into their courses.
 - a. April 1st, the college will host a pact empowerment meeting to introduce the entire college to the grant. Each department has a representative involved in the meeting planning process. This will be a celebration for the entire college. The event will start at 3:30 pm. Additional details will be provided.
 - b. The classroom list is due to Kassie by Friday.
 - c. Faculty and staff evaluations should be completed soon. P&C is the only department that has 3rd year evaluations.
5. The COEBS has a document outlining the expectations of all COEBS adjuncts. Chairs are asked to review the document for possible revision/updates and ensure adjunct faculty are doing what they are expected to do. Dr. Shaw has created an adjunct faculty evaluation form which she shared with the other chairs.
6. Dr. Hux wanted to know if the department's PRT made decisions about counting prior scholarly works of new faculty members who are hired ABD. Currently, each department handles such requests on a case-by-case basis.
7. **ADC Updates**
 - a. Tonda is going through a list of all the grants in our college to see how and to whom the federal freeze on NIH grants will affect. Current IDCs for NIH grants have been cut and limited to 15%. The university continues to encourage faculty to seek grant funding opportunities. Chairs are asked to continue to promote grant activities.
 - i. The university will not make formal statements about any executive orders from the White House.

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- b. TRIO students from Mississippi State will be on campus Feb. 19th. Dean or associate deans have been asked to speak to these students about their college degree programs. We will pull pages from the Playbook and create a document for the students. Travis will send details regarding the event. Dr. Bowser will represent COEBS.
- c. Hiring plans for 2025-26 will be distributed in April. All justification forms require metrics to substantiate the requests. During a meeting of the department chairs' council, Dr. McLean stated department retirements which take place within a department will be funded and replaced. Departments with any such retirements must include these on their 2025-2026 hiring plan.
- d. Adjunct pay is under review. There is a proposed new rate of \$3,000-3,500 across the board.
- e. Departments have control over course start dates, not RisePoint. Departments know their rotation and curriculum needs better than RisePoint. Therefore, departments should determine the start dates for their course rotations.
- f. 200 students need a work-study job this spring. Please consider hiring a work-study student. For more information, contact Dr. Nesbitt to find out how to hire the students.
- g. The new campus advising plan is going forward. Remind faculty they are not to advise students. Professional advisors are the only ones who should be providing academic advising to students.
- h. Faculty Achievement Awards submissions have closed. Alyssa Wells will email all applicants to Asher, and she will convene the college committee. The college will have one month to review and make recommendations to the Dean. The Dean will then write a letter of support to the university committee. In further discussions, it was determined that COEBS did not have any faculty members apply for the awards. Members of the leadership team suggested the application process was cumbersome, which is why many of the college faculty members do not apply. Dr. Hux stated she would mention this to the Provost during their next meeting.

8. Department updates

- a. Dr. Pimpton-Gray (Psychology & Counseling): The Department has selected new hires for the BS psych and School Counseling programs. The application portal is still open for a position in BA psych, which closes on March 3rd. School Psych application portal will close on Feb. 17th. Clinical Mental Health will bring in two candidates for interviews. BS Psych program state review is moving forward. The external reviewer will be on campus this spring.
- b. Dr. Joanna Grymes (Teacher Education): Program review for early childhood services, early childhood education, and mid-level (i.e., non-licensure degree programs) are currently required by the state's Department of Education. Other TE programs are more likely to be added. The Beebe faculty position is waiting for approval from HR.
- c. Dr. Amanda Wheeler-Gryffin (Teacher Education): The special anatomy table has been delivered and set up. Faculty will be trained on it, and an open house will be set for a demonstration. The Sport Management position has been offered to a candidate. An offer to a second candidate will be made today. Exercise Science will start the process for state program review. NOTE: New courses were added to the AOS schedule in draft

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three. This was problematic because the chairs were unaware of the additions and thus had no one to teach these courses. After speaking with the campus AOS representative, the courses were removed.

- d. Dr. Alicia Shaw (ELCSE): A faculty member notified the chair that they will be retiring as of May 31st. A request to replace this individual must go into the Spring 2025-26 hiring plan. Many curriculum changes are going through the vetting process, including a course on autism. Citi training for researchers expires earlier than in previous years.
- e. Dr. Audrey Bowser (Associate Dean of Community Outreach & Engagement): The Character grant will be submitted tomorrow, Feb. 13th. Alan wants CPR training for the BRIDGE program. NYIT has agreed to provide the training. On April 30, an HQIM partner training program will be available for all who need it. BRIDGE will be held at Nettleton Junior High on April 7th at 6:00 pm. Summer camp training is moving forward. Directors meeting will be scheduled for the end of February.
- f. Dr. Loretta McGregor (Interim Associate Dean): Dr. McGregor asked the leadership team to check for any needed updates regarding grad faculty status. She also asked the team to distribute the student travel request forms. The team will need to start working on the strategic plan during the Spring 2025-26 term.