

Academic Update October 13, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

The activity level within the academic community is impressive. Thanks to all for their efforts on behalf of student and faculty development and the advancement of a campus culture devoted to academic excellence.

Changes in Tenure and Promotion Policies

The COAD, associate deans, and chair of the Faculty Senate and Shared Governance Executive Council will meet on October 21 to review a final draft of proposed changes. Once that draft is completed, the faculty can begin its review. The intent of these changes is to streamline the process and make it more transparent.

Core Competencies

The Core Competency Committee completed work on the new core competencies (page 62 of undergraduate catalog) but has now reconvened for fall, 2015 to revisit the curriculum changes needed to support those competencies. Once that work has been completed, the committee report will be reviewed by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. If changes are proposed in the general education curriculum, the faculty will have an opportunity to provide feedback.

Military and Veterans Task Force

This broad-based campus group has been created by the President and will meet on a regular basis over the next few months to develop plans for providing better and more comprehensive services for this student population. Suggestions from the campus and/or academic community for support of this initiative can be presented to Brett Jennings and/or to Wayne Bergeron.

Catalog Printing

This will be the final year (2015-16) that UNA will publish the undergraduate and graduate catalog in large quantities for student and campus use. Future catalogs will be on-line. Limited copies, or portions thereof, can be printed in-house as needed. This action is overdue. The campus disposes of large quantities of catalogs each year. The financial and environmental cost of a printed catalog is significant. By going to an on-line version, the campus is afforded an opportunity to create a document that is interactive-friendly. This will allow faculty, students, and prospective students to explore those sections of the catalog that are appropriate to their particular need.

Council of Academic Deans (COAD) Meeting on October 12

Two guests visited with COAD. Dr. Kyrel Buchanan discussed sponsored research efforts and Chief of Police Gillilan discussed campus safety. COAD also discussed a proposal for donation of a property to UNA adjacent to the Natchez Trace across the Tennessee state line. The COAD will visit the property in early November to determine possible academic plans for its use. We also discussed possible tweaks in several policies that would be submitted to SGEC. The COAD completed work on a minor revision to the

credit hour policy (FH 5.1) and possible revisions in the office hour policy to allow for online office hours. We also held a lengthy discussion about the strengths and weakness of the web lion approach to departmental web site management. No action was taken but the COAD affirmed its concerns about the reliability of the web lion approach as a long term strategy. The COAD also addressed issues around marketing and the need for quality brochures at the departmental level that have the benefit of professional expertise. Evaluations of the college deans by the faculty will ensue this fall and the COAD was asked to review the instrument prior to distribution.