

Academic Update November 16, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Preview Day was a great success. Attendance was phenomenal and the energy level was very high. We are hopeful that many of the attendees will chose UNA as their college home. Thanks to all the faculty and staff who participated. The number of students and guests increases every year. We are very close to the maximum we can accommodate space and personnel wise. That is a good problem to have but may suggest the addition of another preview day in 2016-17 beyond the spring date already added. The students want some one on one time to ask questions but the crowding makes it very difficult to meet that need, especially for high traffic areas. We will review this dilemma and identify best practice for 2016-17. Currently application rates for 2016-17 are up considerably so the hard work by everyone is paying great dividends.

Council of Academic Deans (COAD) meeting on November 9

1. The main item of business was to visit a property across the Tennessee state line adjacent to the Natchez Trace. The property (18 acres) and a house under construction have been offered to UNA as a gift. The COAD heard presentations from faculty on how the facility can be used by the academic community. Amber Fite-Morgan, University Attorney, has been asked by the University to investigate the proposed gift further, including advantages and disadvantages. A decision about the gift will be made in the near future.
2. The COAD also discussed reporting and documentation requirements for UNA staff who teach classes. The process is being finalized in communication with HR.
3. The COAD made a minor revision in the Faculty Development Leave form to address a discrepancy between the form and the guidelines.
4. There was also discussion about Canvas. Issues such as downtime and student notification were addressed. It was agreed to involve IT in further discussion.

Special Meeting of the Trustees on November 23

The College of Nursing is considering a contract with Academic Partnerships to help market its online programs and grow enrollment. The contract requires approval by the trustees.

Tenure and Promotion Revision Update

The COAD, associate deans, chair of Faculty Senate, and chair of Shared Governance will meet on December 2 to continue discussion about proposed changes to tenure and promotion. Once the revisions are completed, a general faculty meeting will be held to go over the changes and get feedback.