

Academic Update February 15, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

The deans and associate deans, with participation from the Faculty Senate President and Chair of Shared Governance, recently completed its review of the tenure/promotion draft. The final step in the review was to address questions raised by the university attorney. The next step is for the draft to be reviewed by the faculty. Once that is complete, the document will be submitted to the Shared Governance Executive Council (SGEC). The SGEC will determine referral of the document for further review but the Faculty Senate will certainly be a part of that process. This draft does not deal with faculty expectations or criteria for tenure and promotion. Those remain the same. This draft is focused on process. Goals include: merging the review for tenure and promotion to associate professor into one process; reducing the length of time for faculty to be eligible for tenure and promotion; and adding transparency, including notification to the faculty at each step of the review process with an opportunity for rebuttal.

Two public forums were recently held with the President and Executive Council (EC). Employees (February 2) and students (February 9) were able to ask questions about any topic of concern to the campus. The first forum produced several questions about institutional support for academic initiatives. Some areas of progress were enumerated but I also acknowledged that we have areas of deficiency that need further attention and additional resources. The questions from the forums have been retained and EC plans to set aside time to give additional attention to the items.

President Kitts and I are in the latter stages of our meetings with each academic department. There has been a good mix of celebrating accomplishments but also pointing out concerns that need the attention of the administration for action.

The Sponsored Research Office under the direction of Dr. Kyrel Buchanan recently completed two major grant proposals with proposed funding for UNA exceeding 4 million dollars. Both proposals target the College of Nursing. One went to HRSA to continue funding for Project OPEN and the other went to EDA to provide construction support for the new nursing building. Congratulations to Dr. Buchanan and all UNA colleagues, especially CON faculty and staff, who assisted in these two efforts. If you have grant ideas, please contact Dr. Buchanan for assistance.

Council of Academic Deans (COAD) meeting on February 8

1. The new Registrar, Cassie Morgan, met for introductions and a discussion of the working relationship between her office and the academic units. We discussed such things as how to create transcripts for special course situations and also the issue of when to open and close registration. I encourage academic departments to contact Cassie and invite her to a faculty meeting.
2. COAD concluded its discussion on repeat/recompute and agreed with the Admissions Office on language to address concerns.
3. COAD examined the language on textbook royalties in the Faculty Handbook and will ask the university attorney for a legal perspective.
4. A new event, Lighting of the Fountain, will be held on the evening of March 21. We hope to make this an annual celebration that brings students, employees, and the community

together for a celebration of the beautiful campus fountain. More details will be forthcoming.

5. The provost reminded the COAD that questions were raised at the employee forum about work load for faculty. COAD looked at current policies for released time for faculty and discussed ways to improve access to the benefit as a way of addressing faculty who are overextended because of additional service, teaching, or research activities.
6. The University Awards Gala is April 25. COAD discussed ways to make the Gala more useful in terms of recognition in light of so many awards banquets being held by individual academic units.