

## **Academic Update February 23, 2016**

### **Council of Academic Deans (COAD) meeting on February 22, 2016**

1. Stephen Putman, Director of IT, provided an update on discussion with students about improved wireless capabilities and an update on a new phone system.
2. Celia Reynolds, SACSCOC Liaison, conducted the annual workshop on SACSCOC Substantive Change as required by UNA policy. The Council discussed examples of substantive change and how to track them to ensure accurate reporting. The prospectus for the new program in Engineering Technology was recently mailed to SACSCOC for approval as a substantive change. The turnaround is several months.
3. The COAD discussed a coursework numbering system for internship courses and agreed to work with the Registrar to get a proposal submitted to the undergraduate curriculum committee.
4. The COAD discussed faculty released time and made minor revisions in the submission form for approval. The deans were encouraged to work with chairs on released time where needed. Released time has become more important as faculty roles at UNA change.
5. Dr. Melvin Davis gave an update on state reciprocity agreements for program recognition. He also shared information on UNA participation in a new organization, State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA). Membership in SARA will allow students in other states to access programs at UNA without the need for state by state approval. Dr. Davis will serve as the point of contact for UNA with SARA.
6. The COAD discussed scheduling issues for the large classroom in the Commons. Deans will follow up with chairs to ensure fair and equitable use of the facility for large enrollment classes. The deans will also work to create better utilization of Stevens Auditorium.
7. The COAD discussed the first two weeks of August. Many employees are off during that time, yet student traffic continues. The deans will work out solutions to ensure student access to academic personnel when they visit campus during that period.
8. Per VP Shields, an updated list of building coordinators was provided. COAD was asked to provide changes by the end of week. Once the list is updated, training will be provided as needed.
9. COAD and Phi Kappa Phi feel that the campus needs one significant, major teaching award, not two, as is currently the case. The Eleanor Gaunder and Larry Nelson Awards will be merged into one award. More details will be provided as the merger of the two awards is completed.
10. The COAD discussed transfer equivalency pages on the STARS website and how to strengthen the UNA information. This is a major effort and will be discussed further.
11. The Provost provided an update on recent discussions in Faculty Senate about office hours and student communication. The COAD also discussed an article in the local newspaper about the purchase of the Keystone Building on behalf of the HES Department.

By now faculty should have access to the draft of the Tenure/Promotion document. If not, please contact your department chair and/or college dean. If you have questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you in advance for taking time to review the document and offer comments.