

Academic Update March 23, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the busiest time of the academic year for faculty, thanks to all for the many accomplishments thus far in 2015-16. The list of activities and achievements is impressive. We can all be proud of the energy we bring to the academic life of UNA and the benefits of those efforts to our students.

Council of Academic Deans (COAD) meeting on March 21

1. Debbie Shaw, interim special assistant (for advancement) to the president, met with COAD and discussed her role. She is assisting the president on a temporary basis with the transition in advancement and fund raising.
2. Cassie Morgan, Registrar, met with COAD to discuss clarification of academic standing and issuance of diplomas.
3. The COAD discussed the ongoing transition of the catalog from hard copy to on-line and the number of hard copies needed for special situations.
4. The COAD discussed the summer schedule for employees and how to reconcile that schedule with summer school classes in 2017.
5. The scholarship budget was discussed. Dr. Brewton will be invited to meet with COAD to discuss possible changes.
6. Dr. Zhang asked questions of COAD members about how to advance articulation agreements for international transfer students.
7. Dr. Luna asked for clarification on the how CIP codes are created at the individual course level. COAD agreed that department chairs perform that duty in consultation with the dean and, when needed, the IR Office.
8. The COAD reviewed suggestions from the selection committees on how to improve the review process for the three academic awards presented at the April awards gala.
9. The COAD continued discussion of classroom utilization in the Commons.

Additional Forum Questions from February 2

1. Question: What difficulties will occur as a result of linking tenure and promotion? Will they become more difficult? Answer: The proposed changes are not intended to have any impact on faculty expectations in teaching, research, and service so attainment of tenure and/ or promotion should not be more difficult. The goal is to make the process more transparent and efficient.
2. Question: What plans are in place to address the requirement that videos shown in classes be captioned to assist hearing impaired students? Answer: I have asked Dean Melvin Davis to work with the staff of educational technology to determine a good response for this concern. It needs to be addressed by the faculty who use videos in support of instruction, but they need the assistance of ET to help implement the solution.
3. Question: Some academic departments are overstaffed while others are having to rely heavily on adjuncts and overloads because of being understaffed. What is the plan for adding faculty lines in departments that need them? Answer: There are ten new faculty lines that have been submitted to SPBSC and others are being developed. Clearly some of these will need to be funded in response to the enrollment increase. The administration is fully aware that we have to

address new faculty lines and discussions toward that end have occurred with the president, provost, deans, and vice president for finance. The plan under consideration would be to deploy some lines in 2016-17, but that effort will be limited if a 3% raise is implemented. The more important piece of the plan is to make commitments as needed for the number of lines in 2017-18 so searches can ensue this fall.

COB Accreditation

The AACSB accrediting body recently sent a team to evaluate the programs and services in our College of Business. This visit is the culmination of many years of preparation for AACSB accreditation. Associate Dean, Dr. Paulette Alexander, recalls discussing AACSB as early as 2002. To all those faculty, administrators, and staff who contributed to that effort, thank you. We should hear something from AACSB in the next few weeks. Good luck to Dean Carnes and the entire COB.

Thinkspace

This new space for research and collaboration is now ready for use by faculty and students. It is located on the lower level of Collier Library. Please go by and visit the space and see how it can be used in support of your classes, group projects, and scholarship.