

## **Academic Update**

**April 25, 2016**

### **Council of Academic Deans (COAD) meeting on April 18**

1. Mary Marshall VanSant, Director of Continuing Education, met with the COAD to discuss a possible new non-credit program in continuing education.
2. The COAD continued discussion of how to implement the summer schedule so that various offices are covered on Friday afternoons.
3. The COAD reviewed the office hour policy approved by Faculty Senate.
4. The COAD approved some changes in language to the policy on how centers and institutes are structured and also how center directors are selected.
5. The process for selection of commencement speakers for the December ceremony was reviewed. The colleges will participate in this selection on a rotational schedule.
6. The COAD reviewed the new guidelines for graduate faculty status recently approved by the Graduate Council.
7. Dean Carnes asked for input on behalf of a proposal before the Faculty/Staff Welfare Committee. The proposal addresses the role of tenured faculty who also have administrative duties as their primary job function. The COAD offered comments for Dean Carnes to share.
8. The COAD reviewed the recently completed core competency report.
9. Dr. Zhang submitted a draft proposal describing how non-UNA students can participate in study abroad. The process will be reviewed by the IPO Committee for further action.
10. SACSCOC Liaison Celia Reynolds addressed accreditation concerns related to the evaluation of adjunct faculty. Minor revisions in the language will be developed for further action.

### **Congratulations**

The College of Business recently received notice that they have been approved for accreditation by AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business). AACSB is the gold standard for business accreditation so the entire UNA community can all be proud of this significant accomplishment. The COB faculty, staff, and administration are especially commended for their hard work. Great job!

Research Day and the activities surrounding it were a major success. The three minute thesis competition, the poster sessions, and the student presentations showed phenomenal scholarly maturity on the part of our students. The faculty mentors and departments who helped them reach that level are to be commended. I am hearing amazing stories about students who have used their research as a catalyst for graduate school and job opportunities. We can all take great pride in the fact that undergraduate student research has become an integral part of the UNA academic community. Let's continue to build upon that strength. Thanks also to Dr. Lisa Keys Mathews for her efforts in coordinating these efforts.

Congratulations to the ten faculty who were recently awarded research grants by the research committee. They include: Jonathan Fleming, Chanho Kang, Ye Hoon Lee, George Makowski, Mario Mighty, Eric O'Neal, Gary Padgett, Chong Qui, Brian Thompson, and Ryan Zayac. The scholarly and creative activity of all our faculty is very impressive.