

Academic Update October 2, 2017

1. Ron Patterson and Melissa Medlin presented information on an upcoming Majors Fair to be held on campus on November 9. The fair will be targeted to freshmen, although it will be open to all students.
2. Based on concerns expressed with erroneous Area V information on the webpage that has affected graduation eligibility of students, COAD determined that to correct this issue, Area V information is being corrected by the colleges, will be removed from the UNA webpage, and instead inserted in the online Undergraduate Catalog where the information will be updated annually.
3. The following reports were provided:
 - a. Online course fee increase was approved by the Board of Trustees for implementation in summer 2018. Deans were informed that the onerous is on them to grow existing online programs, transition low-enrolled traditional programs to online, or propose new online programs.
 - b. The University will utilize the services of IA Systems for the performance of online course evaluations using the current course evaluation instrument.
 - c. A three-month contract has been signed with Collegis for October-December 2017 with a long-term contract to be proposed for approval by the UNA Board of Trustees.
 - d. Beginning with new scholarship awards, the University will discontinue its practice of issuing refund checks for scholarships that exceed the cost of a student's education. In addition, he mentioned that a live-on-campus requirement for sophomores may be forthcoming.
 - e. Eight-week courses will be piloted in the MBA program during the 2018 spring semester, followed by nursing in the 2018 fall semester, and possibly others.
 - f. Mr. Patterson distributed and discussed scholarship terms and conditions that will become effective with the 2018 spring semester.
 - g. Dr. Lefort reported that the University received notification it was awarded \$28,555.24 in scholarship dollars for math and science education majors. In addition, she provided the 2018 ACHE meeting schedule and noted that the ACHE Commission has made revisions to its administrative processes for alterations and extensions to existing programs in that some submissions that previously were decision items will now be considered information items
 - h. Because of the financial difficulties that can result between the August hire date of faculty and the first pay date of October 1, it was noted that the VPAA Office will investigate with Human Resources and Payroll the possibility of allowing a 10-month pay period for the first year of new faculty contracts.