

Provost's Council
February 17, 2016
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Assembly Room, JPL 4.04.22

AGENDA

CHANGING FACULTY ASSIGNMENTS

Dr. Welch mentioned to the Council members that her staff has noticed a problem with faculty assignments not being entered with the correct faculty member or being changed in our system after census date. She stated that her staff noticed this problem when running the workload credit report and seeing department chairs with 40 credits. Dr. Welch stated that she thinks the chairs are assigning classes in their names until the permanent faculty member has been assigned and then the departmental staff forget to go into the system. Or, the departmental staff make the change after census date. This creates a few problems such as:

- Faculty do not see their assigned classes populate in Digital Measures; therefore, they do not receive credit for teaching a class;
- Faculty do not receive student course evaluations;
- Faculty receive student course evaluations in error; and,
- We have to explain to the Coordinating Board why a change was made after census date, because to them it looks like we're replacing faculty mid-semester

Dr. Welch reminded the deans that they receive reminders to ensure the correct faculty name is entered into the system, especially when the course lists "staff" as the instructor. She also stated that the deans receive the workload reports and should be able to determine by the credits, if a faculty member is assigned a class that they may not be teaching.

SACSCOC REVIEW

Dr. Welch mentioned that she received the preliminary agenda from the SACSCOC on-site team and will be reviewing the list of faculty and staff the team may want to meet with. She stated that she will be sending an email out soon.

MATH PATHWAYS

Dr. Frederick mentioned that he recently attended an academic affairs meeting at APLU, wherein the provosts discussed the growing number of students who struggle with college-level mathematics. He further stated that the trend is to now offer several pathways for students to complete their math course; other than taking college-level algebra. Dr. Frederick stated that the Dana Center at UT Austin has developed math pathways designed to improve student success. He further stated that instead of channeling our students automatically to college-level algebra,

maybe they need to take a statistics class. Dr. Williams, vice provost for University College, said that we have placement exams, but no longer offer testing to see if students are college-ready in mathematics. Dr. Eisenberg mentioned that Math 1023 is college algebra for non-science majors and Math 1033 is geared towards business majors. She also stated that the advisors may not know which math course a student should take, so they will channel them towards college algebra. Also, the question was posed on how you could properly advise a student if they have not declared a major.

Other discussions points centered on whether or not the high schools fully prepare a student for college-level math and when was the last time the student took a math course at their high school. Also, some students believe they are ready for calculus, but then struggle in the class because they are either not attending class or the student really wasn't ready for calculus. One suggestion was requiring attendance and then tying the student's grade to whether or not they attended all of the classes. Mary Dixson mentioned that when she was employed at the Alamo Colleges attendance was required and they saw an increase in student success.

Dr. Frederick asked the deans to discuss this with their department chairs and then we can determine if we need to make adjustments in the curriculum we offer or in advising students.

COMMUNICATION TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Dr. Frederick mentioned that he recently had a conversation with department chairs whose faculty seem to have misconceptions of what we're aiming at in reducing D/F/W rates. The chairs informed him that their faculty believed they needed to inflate their grades in order to improve the rates. Dr. Frederick said that it seems we may be communicating the "what", but not the "why" when we're asking faculty to make a change in a process or implement a new system, such as the GRIP. Dr. Frederick asked Dr. Gelo, dean of COLFA, if he would share a memo that he plans to send out to all of his faculty regarding DFW rates as it included reasons why this was so important to our student success. Dr. Gelo mentioned to the deans that he worked with his department chairs to develop the memo and the new policies for faculty in COLFA who do not work towards improving DFW rates. He further stated that the other deans were welcome to utilize his memo as they developed their own policies.

BUDGET

Dr. Barea announced that the deans and their fiscal staff soon will be receiving an excel spreadsheet to begin capturing research expenditures. He reminded them of the new cost center that is being set up specifically to input the appropriate research workload (typically 40%) of every faculty member so that we can capture the expenditures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Great Conversation:

**Tues., Feb. 23rd; 6:00 p.m.
ITC**

Next Provost's Council Meeting:

**Wed., March 23rd; 3:00 – 5:00
Assembly Room, JPL 4.04.22**

University Excellence Awards:

**Thurs., April 14th; 2:00 – 3:00
UC Ballroom**

Commencement Schedule:

Honors College:

**Fri., May 13th; 4:00
Convocation Center**

CACP, COEHD & COS:

**Sat., May 14th; 10:00 – noon
Alamodome**

COB, COPP & UC:

**Sat., May 14th; 4:00 – 6:00
Alamodome**

COE & COLFA:

**Sun., May 15th; 2:00 – 4:00
Alamodome**