

Communications Council Meeting
April 24, 2013
Minutes

- State Funding and hearings are continuing. Final solution will likely be reached in conference committee.
- Assistance for Undocumented students will continue to be allocated to Financial Aid in next year's budget.
- Brandy Fair gave an update on the Professor Emeritus. The program is a way to honor excellence in the classroom and community service for deserving professors who serve 10 or more years.
- Paula Cavender is working with 5 area high schools to finalize agreements for increased Dual Credit offerings. These 5 schools will now offer more than half of a general studies degree through, which requires notification to SACS.
- The Board approved TASB's Update 28 policy revisions for legal and local policies. There are several changes impacting virtually every area of the college. Dr. McMillen encouraged employees to look at the impact each would have on their area. The website may soon have an area dedicated to Policy Changes, which would simplify communication of changes.
- Welding Rodeo will be May 10. The parking lot in front of the dorm will be closed on Wednesday, May 8, to allow set up for the event.
- Professional Staff Development Day went well and had a good response. The Fall date is September 20; Spring tbd. Gregg Miles announced that the First Friday Connection breakfast for September 2013 will be moved to Sept. 20 to kick off the day's activities.
- Email is now being archived in Google cloud.
- Vice President Student Services search is underway. Applications are encouraged by May 15. Committee has been selected. Jeanie Hardin will meet with the committee next week to work on questions and the interview process. There will be a community forum. The top 3 candidates will be given to Dr. McMillen for an on-campus interview. It is very important that we get the right person for Grayson College.
- Only one request for Summer Housing has been received. Therefore, there will not be summer housing this year.
- Gary Paikowski gave a report on various IT projects that are in the works.

- The former Maintenance Director's home, north of the Culinary Arts Center, is set for demolition.

A review of the April 10 meeting of PAC:

- Several members were in Tulsa at POISE training and couldn't attend.
- There is a group working on strategies to expand Learning Frameworks. Several employees attended the SSBTN Conference to gather good data and techniques to ensure that we are implementing the right program for our students' success.
- A new policy on classroom attendance is in discussion. Data supports an improved success rate for those who don't miss class. There is a need to have uniform expectation across campus. Comments from Communications Council members on attendance policy include: Policy shouldn't be punitive to those with sick children, absences due to public school holidays, weather conditions, etc.; support for digitalizing lectures to support missed classes; important to address consequences; hard to craft a blanket policy. Jeanie Hardin will facilitate the policy process.
 - Students need substantial feedback early in the semester. A policy or guidelines to make this uniform in all classes is being considered.
 - Data is being collected and discussions are underway on allowing faculty to initiate a withdrawal. Withdrawal from class has severe implications for students in terms of financial aid and the 6 drop rule, as well as potential harm in the Success Points formula being considered by the state.
- The Staff Development Committee will continue to sponsor the Coffee Talk and Lunch and Learn Sessions next year. The Care Team will target specific areas. Dr. McMillen expressed appreciation to Marsha Starr and the team who organize these activities. The May Lunch and Learn session will be on the South Campus. Employees are encouraged to work with their supervisor to ensure office coverage and representation at the event. Transportation may be arranged.
- Developmental Math has been redesigned again. Dr. McMillen asked for data that has been collected to be analyzed to determine which models and techniques are effective.

Overview of the April Board of Trustees meeting: they approved the policy updates, saw a demonstration of Estudias, and looked at the first draft of Strategic Plan 2016.

- Strategic Plan 2016 overview: The purpose is to focus our work to keep us strong and mission-focused and to be proactive in accountability and student success. This plan provides measureable results and goals for the Goal Teams to work toward. There are already some tactics in place to accomplish the work; others will need to be implemented.

- Budget Process and Hearings – May 3, 1:30 p.m. in CWL Auditorium. Departments with enhanced budget requests (a new level of service or personnel) will be given 3-5 minutes to share details of the request. The Hearings are open to all employees.
- Registration Push – advising is busy; admissions is evaluating transcripts and calling College 101 completers; Paula is working with dual credit; Counseling and South Campus have ordered advising banners; faculty need to visit with their students to encourage registration for summer and/or fall; post cards to former dual credit students have been mailed; organizing a “go week” of advising on the Bridge during finals. Communications Council member asked about having an easy-to-distribute check list of steps to enrolling.