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Celebrations and Announcements

Dr. Fair Publishes Text

Dr. Brandy Fair, Chair of Arts and Humanities, recently co-authored *Business Communication in a Technological World* with Dr. Chris Gurrie of the University of Tampa and covers a variety of topics, including how to conduct interviews online.

<http://www.grayson.edu/news/2017/08/Fair%20Book.html>

Grant Received

The Manufacturing Consortium has received another \$100,000 grant from the Texas Workforce Commission for the purpose of equipping the new Advanced Manufacturing Lab. The check was presented by Chairman Andres Alcantar on September 25. Local industries have committed to matching the grant.

<http://www.heralddemocrat.com/news/20170925/manufacturing-program-receives-153k-donations>

AEL Meets First Targets

The Adult Education Literacy team earned a 2% funding bonus by surpassing their target of having 197 students with 12 earned hours by September 30. In fact, 299 students earned 12 hours. I am appreciative of the work of the AEL Director, Ashley Trevino and her team.

<http://www.grayson.edu/news/2017/10/AEL.html>

Foster Nominated to Statewide Committee

Executive Director of the Center for Workplace Learning, Djuna Forrester, has been nominated to serve on the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on Workforce Continuing Education. Pending public comment, she has been appointed to the committee.

Maximizing 8-week Schedules

The college's strategic planning goals Connect, Commit, and Complete are aligned with our work over the last several years to fully-implement guided pathways at Grayson College by fall 2018. A key development in this journey is our pursuit to maximize opportunities for students to take courses primarily in an 8-week term by fall 2018. We seek to do this by increasing the percentage of course sections and programs that are available in that format. Additionally, we hope to dramatically increase the number of students enrolled in 8-week courses.

We are doing this in hopes that we will see similar results as have been observed at Odessa College and Amarillo College, which include:

- Increased percentage of GC students who are full-time
- Increased percentage of course completions (ABC's)

- Increased percentage of students retained from fall-to-spring
- Increased percentage of students retained from fall-to-spring-to-fall
- Increased graduation rate
- Decrease time to degree
- Decrease hours to degree

As a part of this work we are strategically setting out to increase **Connections** with our students. While the conversations are still very fluid, we are discussing various options, including a success course component and a faculty mentoring/advising component. Additionally, during this time, the student would enroll in a two-year schedule (pre-enrolling them in classes), and would enroll in the courses in an order identified by the faculty. Courses are labeled in priority from 1-20 in a 60-hour degree so that students will know where to pick up should they stop out. This will allow the college to build a schedule for our students in a more predictable manner (i.e. we will know how many students are “up next” for a given course as we plan for it). Further, we can monitor students course taking patterns and we can intervene if students get ‘off path,” and we can encourage those who are on pace and/or on path.

Additionally, our intended outcome is a greater transition from early enrollment to latter **Commitment** by students. Eight-week terms allow faculty and students to build deeper relationships, as they are both dealing with a fewer number of classes. When students have fewer classes, they are more able to focus on the two or three courses they may take in a term. Further, the life-interrupting occurrences that are prevalent for our students are less likely to be as catastrophic, as a student can “buckle” down to make it to the end of an 8-week class when it may be difficult to do so if the same class were 16-weeks. This should increase course completion. Further, if they must stop out mid-term, the next term comes more quickly and they don’t lose focus.

Both Odessa and Amarillo saw at least 10% increases in the percentage of full-time students. We are hopeful this will occur at Grayson, as it deepens commitment and furthers the specific outcomes we track for this goal, particularly hitting the key milestones of 15/30/45 hrs.

There is an intentional focus on **Completion**, specifically completion of the degree and entry into the workforce or transfer to a university. Having students progress through the program more quickly will allow the region to enjoy the benefits of their education earlier and longer.

As outlined above, there are many “big” things that need to happen in order for us to be successful. One of the challenges will be to enable our technologies to handle the new model, including being able to process financial aid, register, advise and coach, as well as produce state reports. Workgroups and task forces are busy working on each of these steps and the leadership team is working on building a project management plan that monitors key milestones for project success.

SACSCOC 5th Year Interim Report Submitted

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) 5th Year Interim Report was submitted in mid-September. The purpose of the interim report is to provide documentation supporting the college’s compliance with accreditation standards. Part of the report is the inclusion of the Impact Report of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). That report is attached as a part of the Board packet. The attentiveness and hard work of Dr. Dava Washburn, Dr. Chase Machen and Dr. Kim Williams throughout the process is greatly appreciated. SACSCOC will conduct an on-site visit of dual credit sites November 14-16.

Continuing Accreditation for Paramedic Program

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) as awarded the Paramedic Program continuing accreditation with the requirement to submit four follow-

up reports. At the time of our “response to findings” letter, the previous cohort was still in internship, so we were unable to provide that documentation; the documentation is much more substantial now. We expect no continuing issues. The next comprehensive evaluation of the program, include an on-site review, is scheduled to occur no later than 2022.

Legislative Updates

Reelection bids and Hurricane Harvey are currently the focus of many in the legislature. However, the Senate has formed a Higher Education Funding Committee to work on non-formulary items (formerly called special items, which includes our Viticulture program and Small Business Development Center funding) and other issues of higher education funding prior to the next session.

Facilities Updates

Plyler Construction has dirt moving equipment on site for the residence hall, so that project is moving forward. The official groundbreaking was held on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 9am. Read more about the groundbreaking here

<http://www.heralddemocrat.com/news/20170927/grayson-college-breaks-ground-for-new-dorm>

The foundation for the Advanced Manufacturing Lab was poured last week. There is some early discussion that this project is a few days behind; however, this should not impact instruction beginning in January. We are still asking them to hold to the original date of substantial completion.

The practice facility for baseball and softball has been completed, resulting in a safer facility and many positive comments from players and coaches.

External Information Technology Audit and THECB Desk Review

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has notified us they will conduct an audit of our reports used for funding. This was expected as they visited us prior to converting our software to CAMS, and they wanted to come back after we had implemented. It is a desk review. The dates and times of the audit have not been set.

The college has contracted to have an independent external audit of our IT operations, to include network security, internal controls of authorization to various software, and potential exposure to threats. The goal is to give our system a check and for them to make recommendations on where we need to improve. This work is happening in the next couple of months, and it can help to support the THECB Desk Audit.

Soft Drink Vendor Selected

The college opened proposals from Coca-Cola, Dr. Pepper, and Pepsi for a five-year contract to sell soft drinks and similar beverages on campus. The most advantageous proposal is from Coca-Cola. It provides a one-time up-front payment of \$40,000, annual payments of \$20,000, commissions estimated at \$162,125 through the five years of the agreement, and other items valued at \$11,500.

Foundation Report

As of the close of business, August 31, 2017, the Grayson College Foundation has raised approximately \$1,695,286 in gifts, pledges, gifts of kind and grants. This exceeds the Foundation's goal of \$800,000 by \$895,286 or 211.9%.

The Grayson College Foundation awarded 515 scholarships to 396 students totaling \$604,936 in scholarships for the 2017/2018 academic year. The average award per student is \$1,528.