

MINUTES
Academic Council
November 19, 2013

The Academic Council met on Tuesday, November 19 at 8:30 a.m. in the President's Conference Room, Sheridan Hall 306.

Members present: Mark Bannister, Jeff Briggs, Brad Will for Paul Faber, Dennis King, Rob Scott, Crowley, Shala Mills and Chris Crawford

1. Presentation by Fort Hays Honor Society

There was a presentation by Johnny Hill and Brandon Taylor on the Fort Hays Honor Society and its activities. The two members provided an overview of the Society explaining what activities they have sponsored, funding explanation, president's distinguished scholar program, involvement in undergraduate research experience, KAMS and competitive scholarships. The best way the deans can help is encourage creating an honors program at the University.

2. Closed Class Listing, Low ACT students and Moving Low ACT Students to Classes – Joey Linn

Action: The closed class listing is now obsolete because of waiting list software in TigerCentral. Dr. Linn was instructed to discontinue this report. The current low ACT scores-procedure the University mandates requires the students meet with Patty Griffin, Director of Academic Advising, and take the required courses to improve their GPA. Dr. Linn is proposing to eliminate the tiger success students and enroll these students in the departments. There are 30-40 students in this category. The reason to move them to departments is have these students take courses they are interested in not just a mandated list of courses. There was concern about departments not knowing these students are low-act students who may require additional advising. Brett Bruner can monitor these students anytime and notify the departments if there is a concern. Deans agreed to keep the mandated limit to 13 credit hours per semester for these students. Departments limited to learning communities because they are already preloaded. The deans agreed to move these students to the departments but there needs some type of flag to the advisor about the low ACT score of the particular student. It was suggested a dual list – one to Patty Griffin and the other to the departments but not put them in the departments yet.

3. Prior Learning Assessment Change to Catalog

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is the terminology that is now used instead of accelerated mechanisms. We have been working toward this at the university for some time now. The state has put together a document requiring all universities to apply prior learning assessment to students' coursework. It was suggested we get out in front of the game and change the name from accelerated mechanisms to PLA. Dennis will contact the necessary people to implement the change.

4. Faculty Awards for 2013

The recipients were selected for each of the awards. Dr. Crawford is disappointed in the College of Arts and Sciences not sending forth any recommendations for these awards and asked Brad Will to relay this to the dean. Dr. Crawford expects to see nominees for the spring 2014 from that college.

5. General Education Forum

Dr. Crawford has asked Dr. Faber and the General Education Committee to begin reviewing the current program and make a recommendation to him by the end of the Spring 2014 semester. Dr. Faber has suggested forums be set up with input from stakeholders on what they want and/or expect from each

department. Dr. Crawford agreed this would be a good way to receive input on the program. He is also setting up a general education website to post ideas and the status of the review.

6. Pass/No Credit Policy

The item was tabled until next meeting due to the absence of Dr. Faber. Dr. Will indicated there is a patch for the students currently needing an immediate response to these problems. Dr. Crawford indicated his agreement to move forward with this “patch” for these students.

7. Next Generation Faculty

Dr. Crawford is not sure what the direction this group needs to take in the future and asked for input from the deans. He is more interested in pedagogy and, perhaps, fold it into the Red Balloon Project. The Red Balloon Project needs to be redefined.

8. Student Affairs Liaison to Grand Council.

All agreed this is a good idea to include someone from Student Affairs to attend the Grand Council.

9. Certificates Programs

We need standardization of certificates at the University. There needs to be a clear definition of certificates and what the implications are for the certificates. The President would like them to be workforce related. Dr. Crawford wants to eliminate some certificates that are not working. What does the industry wants should be the focus. This will be put back on the agenda for in-depth discussion. Certificates should be for credit and possibly non-credit.

10. FHSU Website Revision

Feedback on the revisions should be sent by December 3. The sample will be distributed to the Academic Council by email from Cindy Cline.

11. Worksheets for the Four Colleges

A copy of the confidential worksheet will be sent to Tim Crowley and Dennis King. Currently the Virtual College allocations are maintaining our level of success. Concerns were expressed about trying to generate new programs and this model not working. Dennis was asked to replicate the capacity report and share with everyone on the council. This will be put back on the agenda after the holidays.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.