MINUTES Academic Council January 21, 2014

The Academic Council met on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in the Smoky Hill Room of the Memorial Union.

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

Guests: Eric Deyo, and Shala Mills

The meeting was called to order.

1. Waiting List

The good news about the waiting list is there will not be many changes. Most of them were made during the semester by the Computing Center. However, the "Topics" category for the Virtual College will still be a problem. Dr. Crawford expressed his appreciation for Dennis King's work on this project. He asked the deans for feedback on any problems with the system as far as the academic side. Dennis King indicated there will be reports run now on both course capacity and the wait list feature of Tiger Central. It would be interesting to know the number of students who were on the waiting list but didn't get served. Dennis will include this as a report for the deans. Dr. Scott noticed there was a large decrease in the number of calls from students wanting to be enrolled in classes and felt like the waiting list feature was responsible for the decrease. Also, the deans had the ability to add classes based on the waiting list in November instead of January. The University continues to move away from relying on the CICS system for data and moving to web-based systems. Dr. Devo requested training for advisors on how the waiting list works so they can explain it to students. One problem that was discovered was the ability to override the system once it was turned off. The Registrar's Office was still able to add students in classes. There is also discussion on changing the current tuition refund policy and the last day of attendance policy. Mike Barrett has established a committee to discuss these initiatives. On the issue of last day of attendance, Dennis is looking at a way to remove the students from classes but keep the data in the system if it is needed for the attendance report. The Committee is considering changing the refund dates to 50% and 100% and discontinuing the distribution of a 100% of a students' scholarship upfront. Dennis requested a volunteer from the academic affairs side to serve with him on this committee. The Council suggested Beth Walizer. Dr. Scott will get in touch with her about serving and let Chris and Dennis know her decision.

It sounds like the intersession worked very well. We ended up with 16 courses. The quality of the classes seemed to be sufficient. Dr. Briggs indicated the three-hour class

offered from his college didn't do well. It has a number of "D"s and "U" and was curious if others had noticed similar results. Dr. Bannister indicated one of the COBE courses allowed students to have access to the class as soon as they were registered. This may have helped the success of the course.

2. PLA activity/Strategy and Coordinator of PLA

There isn't a change in the proposal, this is the next step in the process of the University using PLA's. When everything is in place, the PLA Committee will talk to the President about it. The first step was to change accelerated mechanisms verbiage to prior learning outcomes in documents throughout the University. Next, the plan was to look at ePortfolio's. It was suggested having someone from the Department of English take a look at the ePortfolios component. DANTES and CLEP are already using ePortfolios instead of testing out of the courses. The coordinator of the PLA program would work with the departments as the "Go-between" person. This individual would work on the advising side of this activity. Faculty members would actually do the reviewing of the content of the activity. The University is using PLA to meet the 60% graduation rate set by the Governor. Dr. Crawford felt like it would be helpful for an expert from off campus to come to campus to explain what PLA is and how it would work at our institution; Possibly someone from a peer institution (comparable size) who has had success at using the PLA. Dennis was charged with finding someone who fits the criteria to bring to campus. The KBOR is going to adopt the University of Tennessee model. It was proposed to bring someone to campus in March or early April.

3. IDS 101 Instructor Process and Forms

These forms will be used to hire IDS 101 instructors and how to contract with these employees. The Council would like to see the final grades for this class. Chris will request the information and share with the Council. Feedback to Student Affairs is to include the tour of the Library as part of the course. This could be an opportunity for Student Affairs and the Library to develop a meaningful activity.

4. Proposed UNIV Prefix Designation

The Council approved the recommendation to change the course title from IDS to UNIV for the three courses (100, 101 and 103) and to move the approval of the courses to Student Affairs. These courses have traditionally been taught out of Student Affairs. There is really no academic content in any of them. Dr. Crawford will present the proposal to ISM before moving forward.

5. Academic Calendars 2016-2019

The University's Academic Calendar for 2016-2019 was distributed to the Council. While this is a retroactive approval, Dr. Crawford wanted to show it to the Council for review. We were on a time crunch and had to get it to KBOR by last Wednesday. The only issue that may come up is in 2019. Midterm grades need to be submitted by the Monday of the spring break. A suggestion was made to move the submission of

midterm grades to the Monday after the spring break. The Deans were asked to talk with their chairs about this possibility.

6. Performance Agreement

A copy of our performance agreement was included in the agenda. We are bound to this agreement for fiscal year 2014 and in the process of putting together one for the next year.

7. Distributed copies of the Foresight 2020 report to Council.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.