

Academic Leadership Council

Minutes

September 12, 2017

I. Meeting opened by Joe Lipar, standing in for Trinity Williams.

- A. August minutes are not available to review at this time.

II. Jake Martin, Chief Technology Officer

Scott Thede, Director of Technology Assistance Center

- A. Personal Computer Replacement
 - 1. Jake introduced himself and turned the explanation of the computer replacements process over to Scott Thede.
 - 2. Scott provided two handouts: PCR Fact Sheet, and the price listing work sheet with tentative costs for Dell and Applie computers. Scott provided a detailed explanation of the process. The Recommended Dell Desktop is the base model and cost sharing is based on that price. Pricing is subject to change but is not expected to change drastically. Dell has been selected partially due to much shorter and dependable ship times. Dean's should receive list of computers scheduled for replacement by the end of September for their approval. Orders will hopefully be placed in October with replacement beginning once orders are received. Units will decide what is most appropriate for each person in their unit based on need. (see 2 handouts)
 - 3. Items pointed out included.
 - a. Replacement plan is for computers only, not monitors/keyboards/soundboards, since they last so much longer. New computers don't have analog output so older monitors won't synch. Therefore, monitors will be reviewed on case by case basis. Currently we have about 40% laptop users, 60% desktop users.
 - b. Funding model will be: President will covers 50% of cost of recommended desktop, Academic Affairs covers an additional 25%, with units covering remaining costs.
 - c. Units may elect to postpone replacement and the computer will be placed on the list for the following year. If it needs replacing in the interim the department will be responsible.
 - d. Lab computers are not part of the PC Replacement project. Starting spring 2017 semester labs have been monitored for utilization and stats will be reviewed after fall data is collected. IT is working with university leadership for options concerning replacement.
 - e. Note: a Microsoft tablet is on the list for the first time.

III. Amy Greene, Executive Director of Online Education

- A. Blackboard Ally: Making online Course Content Accessible
 - 1. Blackboard ALLY is an accessibility tool that scans every document added to Blackboard and reports what accessibility issues are detected. It has been shown to pick up things Microsoft accessibility screening had passed. It was launched about 1.5 months ago and there have been no major slowdowns noted in Blackboard. Examples given.
 - 2. Amy gave a demo of the tool and showed what students see in Blackboard. They will have the option of opening documents in HTML, ePub, electronic braille or audio versions.

3. Compliance is being tracked. All VL (online) courses are being monitored at this time. The country wide compliance rate is 40% but Ferris plans to set a much higher goal, perhaps with recognition of those who meet the set standards.
4. Members felt faculty would benefit from seeing the slide presentation and asked if they could share. Amy will send a copy to Trinity to share with members.
5. Extensive training opportunities will be offered via FCTL.
6. EIO is hiring a part-time online design consultant, who will hopefully be hired by the end of September. Assistance will be available to faculty designing online/hybrid courses. Please encourage faculty to reach out to EIO for assistance with translating classroom instruction into online teaching.

IV. Bob Murray, Associate Vice President for Advancement

A. Comprehensive Campaign Update

1. Bob introduced himself and his team composition. His role is to assist the efforts of the Foundation and their support of faculty, staff and students.
2. The Comprehensive Campaign is the first the University has embarked on with all contributions coming in counting toward the final goal. One main focus of the campaign is the Ferris Futures Challenge to create endowed scholarships of \$25,000 minimum. We are in the “quiet phase” of the campaign, with a public launch scheduled for November 9 at an event scheduled in the University Center. Specific details will be announced.
3. Deans are working with the Provost to specific projects in each college. Some of these projects include: the Swan building, athletics, the Katke addition. With President Isler at the helm of their efforts, their goal is to support the efforts of all on campus.
4. UAM has a philanthropic grant writer on staff who can assist with efforts.
5. Bob will attend future meetings, and will welcome feedback from ALC.

V. Joseph Lipar, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, and other Arts and Sciences Leaders

A. College of Arts and Sciences Student Engagement Activities

1. English, Literature and World Languages – Dept. Chair Jody Ollenquist shared a sample of their efforts:
 - a. Majors/Minors Mixer with all majors invited
 - b. PRISM contest
 - c. Literature in Person
 - d. Professional Development for Students
 - e. Give students real world projects, so contact her for anything written, designed, etc.
2. Mathematics – Dept. Head Kirk Welled shared the following (see handout)
 - a. Multiple interdisciplinary projects with Business, CET, RSS, CAS, Nursing. Encouraged anyone working on a project that involves MATH courses to contact him for collaboration.
 - b. C4 – formerly PILOT – cross curricular career community where at risk students take math, composition and reading together. Goal is to instill sense of professionalism and ultimately improve retention and success. The second cohort is in progress. Please see Kirk for more information.
 - c. Use of Math Labs in the Teaching of Calculus
3. Social and Behavioral Sciences – Dept. Chair Meral Topcu shared:
 - a. Research outside classroom with students.

- b. Psychology and Sociology faculty take students to conferences. Focus is to get students ready for advanced careers in sociology and psychology. Will host conference at Ferris in spring.
 - c. Mentoring programs for minority students. Multicultural office is involved.
4. Biology – Dept. Chair Beth Zimmer shared:
- a. Large picnic in both fall and spring semesters
 - b. Speaker Series with first speaker coinciding with picnic this fall
 - c. POSIT – cohort living in North Hall. Program gives faculty part-time release to work with students weekly, involving them in research. BIOL and CHEM class taken together.
 - d. Summer Student Research – students are paid to stay and work with faculty – 2-3 each summer.
 - d. Students attend local, state and national conferences with faculty.
 - e. Premed students get to work on cadavers before heading to med school.
 - f. Several RSOs tied to major, with new RSO recently formed by Cliff Franklund
5. Physical Sciences – Dept. Head
- a. Many similar activities to Biology
 - b. Tours arranged for students who will most likely be working in industry.
 - c. Chemistry on the Bridge – spring semester poster demonstration in connector between ASC and Science buildings.
 - f. Student opportunities to work in Observatory, although we have no Astronomy program.
 - g. College wide Awards Ceremony & Poster Session – culminating event for students, families, faculty.

VI. Announcements

- A. Trinity Williams was the only nomination received for ALC Chair. She has agreed to serve for this year. Members approved by raise of hands.
- B. Campus Wide Majors and Minors Expo
 - 1. Many colleges host their own events. This year plan is to combine all into a single event held in the UC ballroom November 1st. All students on campus will be encouraged to come explore and investigate. Each college will have tables and can organize what and how they wish to present information.

Minutes submitted by
 Gayle Driggers
 CAS Secretary III

Statement of Purpose: The Academic Leadership Council will promote collaboration in the Division of Academic Affairs; provide a forum for the development, exchange, and promotion of ideas and best practices; and discuss the implementation of policies presented by the Deans' Council and Division of Academic Affairs that impact processes and procedures.