



Dean's Council Weekly Meeting
July 15, 2020
Virtual Meeting
3:15 pm – 4:45 pm

Academic Affairs

Administration Room 200
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3:15-3:35

Laptop vs. PC Discussion – Mr. Wester

Mr. Wester provided a spreadsheet for the Deans to review. This would be something to consider due to COVID-19 and equipment the university provided to those faculty and staff who did not have the required equipment to work from home. Funding is a concern to make this transition as this will not be an immediate change but we can move forward with this as a goal. Dr. Cezeaux indicated at her previous institution, they used docking stations and laptops. She also stated a tablet option might be a better for some faculty/staff instead of laptops. Ken indicated several tablets were returned in exchange for laptops, as the tablet was not the best option for all. Ken also stated a smaller laptop option or more convertible options could be explored. About 95% of faculty have the basic PC and the department pays for anything additional. He noted some people have begun to request secondary items like keyboard, mouse or monitors to have at home. In a normal time, ATU would not cover the additional equipment requests but since the remote working environment has increased, ATU has begun to provide those items. This could open up the university to requests from faculty and staff requesting internet upgrades or data or cell phone payment. Thin Client does not have a processor in it but is there a reason we would not go with this option? This works best for the students and are the majority of what is in the Library. It is the opinion of OIS that the average faculty or staff member would be fine with a Thin Client and it is still a good option. There is not a version available for Mac for virtual desktops. This could work for staff, adjuncts, and GAs. It is important to get faculty buy in as well. Those in the meeting appreciated the data provided. Dr. Johnson asked the Deans to confer with faculty and we will revisit this topic in early August.

3:35-4:00

Transition Surveys – Using the Information to Prepare for the Fall
Resources to Help Faculty

Student Feedback: Dr. Cezeaux stated everyone across higher education is saying online is inferior instruction. The student is still responsible for learning the material. Dr. Robertson had two main takeaways. One was the course was lame based on the student's comfort with technology and the

second was student access to tools and technology was lacking. Dr. Cass stated there is a lack of knowledge of BlackBoard and students expected things to be there and it was not. Dr. Bean stated this leads to the fact that the large percentage of faculty do not use BlackBoard and use is not consistent across campus. Dr. Cezeaux asked if the data is available regarding full-time versus part-time students. The populations need to be identified because they have different needs. She echoed the technology issues students faced. Ken shared OIS increased the Wi-Fi capability in the Library and parking lot access. Use increased at the end of Spring Break but during finals week, the usage rate plummeted and within summer I term, it dropped a bit more.

Ken participated in a broadband webinar with the USDA, state representatives, county judges, and county and state constituents to discuss getting internet access to families within the state especially when families may have multiple individuals needing access in the fall. Ken indicated the representatives would need to be the lead on this but OIS would be available to serve on the working groups. Ken also stated the comment regarding student's lack of comfort with technology resources was surprising because about 98% of students use BlackBoard and they use technology every day. Dr. Cezeaux shared that adjuncts should be aware of this as well.

Dr. Johnson noted student access was also discussed during EC and how does ATU determine who gets what or who has the biggest need. It is too late for the University to provide the equipment or require the student to provide their own. The issue of access to the internet would still be an issue. Drive in Wi-Fi across the state became available if a student could get to a college campus but some are still 30 minutes or more from the nearest site offering internet access. Dr. Cezeaux pointed out the students will also not have access to printers but that may not be clear to the faculty as they expect the student to print and scan materials.

Staff Feedback: Professional development for technology was a theme.

Faculty Feedback: Tell all faculty to use BlackBoard, syllabi needs to be posted in BlackBoard, and to use email via BlackBoard to fulfill the requirement for communication. Needs of adjuncts may not have been considered as much when the university went remote as the focus was on full-time faculty. Resource needs for adjuncts were addressed but we need to ensure we provide training focused on adjunct needs. Dr. Aulgur stated course quality is the main concern and the Deans worked to determine what the priorities were for the fall term.

4:00 – 4:05

HLC – Dr. Robertson

It has been a marathon for four days of review. Some may hear from the group for clarification. Dr. Donna White will review the document before it is sent to EC. Then it will go out to the campus. Professional Development will need to be created for what to expect for campus. Dr. Robertson shared it would be safe to say we will have one person on campus for the review and the rest will be virtual for the November visit.

Strategic Plan – Dr. Johnson

She is working on updates for Year 4 and may be in touch with some of you to get updated numbers as of June 30.

4:10-4:30

ACPG Updates – Dr. Aulgur

Class Migration

Communication / Informal Q&A / Cascading Information

Notes provided by Dr. Aulgur. Migration of courses should be done by the first of the week. A plan for the overloads needs to be discussed. The expectation is for all faculty to use BlackBoard but the expectation of what is in the shell and how are we going to communicate that out needs to be addressed. Deans need to take the lead communicating to their faculty. Cascaded announcements could be housed in CETL space and shared, for example, the new required syllabus information.

COVID-19 Taskforce Updates

Dr. Johnson shared her notes from the meeting she attended on behalf of Dr. Schoephoerster for the COVID Taskforce meeting. She suggested the deans determine the number of face shields and masks needed so when the request form opens they can immediately request items. She also noted that Brandye Bisek had noted that in response to concerns about faculty not being able to talk loudly with a mask that it was allowable for them to wear the face shield as long as there was at least 10 feet, preferably 12, from students. If faculty are able to teach and wear the mask, that is the preferred option but if that is uncomfortable they can wear the shield as long as they adhere to the appropriate physical distance.

Risk portfolio – Dr. Cezeaux stated the portfolio only talks about what is going on on-campus rather than including the community. This does not match our own framework. Residence Life increased quarantine beds from 16 to 50. Dr. Cezeaux shared Pope County is at about a 3.6% daily increase and Yell County is even greater. There has been no positive progress since April regarding COVID infections.

4:30-4:40

Announcements, Future Agenda Items

Please remember to wear your regalia during your virtual commencement message of 1.5 minutes. The video is due to Ken Teutsch by July 24. Ken would like to submit these to the registrar ASAP so please send as you complete. Dr. Aulgur noted that no particular format is required for the video.

Preparation Gray & Associates Friday, July 17 at 10 am.

Preparation ARGOS Training Monday, July 23 at 2 pm.

Please have VPN connected and logged in to ARGOS prior to the meeting.

Lake Point

All faculty/staff should be out of Lake Point by August 2. Items should be clearly labeled that will stay, be put in storage, or moved to campus.

Faculty Senate

There has been communication received from Dr. Eshelman, Faculty Senate Chair, with concerns about some questions being posed to faculty senate. Dr. Robertson suggested having a few Deans on the panel for a question and answer session. Dr. Cass stated there is a growing paranoia and a Q&A would be helpful. He went on to state there is a need to demonstrate we are taking steps to protect not only faculty, but staff and students, as well. Dr. Cezeaux shared there is new information stating wearing masks is extremely effective in preventing exposure to COVID-19.

Other Announcements

Dr. Jan Jenkins resigned as of August 15 as the University Honors Director. Interim replacement is being considered.

Dr. Cass shared the Artist in Residence mural is up outside of McEver.

There should be no face-to-face appointments with students. Meetings should be virtual.

4:40-4:45

Recap / Next Steps

4:45

Adjournment!