

President's Communication Committee

February 22, 2022

Dr. Bowen:

Please consider attending interviews for Interim VP for Academic Affairs position. If you attend, please submit feedback forms. Open forum registration is available via OneTech or via email sent campus-wide. Next candidate is Dr. Michael Anderson on Thursday, Feb. 24, at 2:15 p.m.

The next BOT meeting is scheduled for March 17 at the Ozark campus at 1:00 pm. Virtual viewing is available.

Monitoring winter weather moving into the area later this week. Please monitor communications regarding inclement weather plans. Please plan for remote work should we need to pivot to a remote work day. Work with your respective VPs should you have a unique situation.

COVID-19 Update; Josh McMillian:

Cases are declining. Positivity rate has gone down to 11% from 17% two weeks ago. The goal is to get below 10% statewide. Pope County cases are also declining. All data points are trending in the right direction. Governor Hutchinson continues to encourage vaccinations. COVID-19 Management Plan has been updated. No more daily health screening required for employees. The cap on the number allowed for indoor gatherings has been lifted. Mask wearing and social distancing is still in place. The COVID-19 TF is monitoring the mask mandate. The CDC may be issuing new mask guidance soon and the COVID-19 TF will evaluate and make recommendations to EC as it becomes available.

Enrollment Update; Dr. Bedsole:

Up in transfer applicants and down in freshman applicants on the Russellville campus. Graduate applicants are also down. Ozark campus is looking good in both transfer and undergraduate applicants. Student engagement is good. Optimistic for a good yield from this applicant pool. Admitted student event scheduled for March. Dr. Bowen reiterated that everyone has a role to play in recruitment and retention.

Housing Update; Kevin Solomon:

Housing applications tend to indicate the seriousness of applicants in matriculating to a university. Housing applications are up for fall 2022 by 8.5% from this time last year. 342 students have already signed contracts. Cautiously optimistic that this trend will continue since traditionally most housing application increases are seen in March and April.

Administration and Finance; Laury Fiorello:

Budget Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 25 at 9:00 am. Will be reviewing the campus master plan, budget assumptions, fee sub-committee report, etc.

Human Resources; Christina Stolarz:

Summer hours from May 9 through July 29. All departments must remain open Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Each employee, in consultation with his or her supervisor, will have the flexibility to schedule four nine-hour workdays and one four-hour workday each week during the summer hours period.

The flexibility includes the ability to customize the nine-hour workdays. Examples include but are not limited to: an employee may work from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. with a one-hour lunch; an employee may work from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. with a one-hour lunch; an employee may work from 7:30 a.m-5 p.m. with a 30-minute lunch.

The summer hours plan also provides employees the flexibility to, in consultation with their supervisors, schedule their four-hour workday any day of the week (Monday-Friday). The four hours on that day must be worked consecutively. HR will be hosting a supervisor discussion and training on April 4 related to summer hours.

Performance evaluations are due by March 30.

Academic Affairs; Dr. Anglin:

Dr. Sarah Gordon has accepted the interim Dean of the Graduate College position through June 2022. Dr. Jeff Cass has accepted additional responsibilities in Academic Affairs through June 2022 but will remain Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. Dr. Cass will be the lead representative for Academic Affairs in strategic planning. Rededication of Williamson Hall is Friday afternoon at 2:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Dr. Gunter:

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee is currently reviewing data from a survey recently conducted. The group will be meeting tomorrow to continue their work. A writing sub-committee will write 3-5 overarching goals along with measurable action outcomes. Appreciative of good ideas and feedback submitted from the campus community. Once a draft document is compiled, open forums will be scheduled on both campuses to provide everyone a chance to provide feedback on the goals. These are tentatively scheduled for April. A final draft should be to the BOT this summer. The plan will cover the next 3-years.

The 2021 President's Report is now available online at <https://www.atu.edu/presidentsoffice/docs/presidentsreport2021.pdf>. Please take a few moments to review and reflect on the collective accomplishments of our campus community during 2021, despite working remotely for half of the year due to the pandemic.

Athletics; Abby Davis:

Today is NCAA Division II day, 2-22-22, celebrating student athletes and administrators in Division II. Basketball senior night is Thursday, the last home games. All spring and winter sports are playing right now. Many contests going on throughout the week. Please attend if you can.

Governmental Relations; Ashley Golleher:

Fiscal session is on-going. Hoping that the session will end soon and that funding will be secured. Session must end no later than March 30 but should end sooner.

University Relations; Sam Strasner:

Pre-registration begins on March 1. Encourage students to schedule advising appointments. Details can be found here, <https://www.arkansastechnews.com/early-registration-for-current-students-begins-march-1/>

<https://www.arkansastechnews.com/atu-film-festival-provides-glimpse-of-world-cultures/>

<https://www.arkansastechnews.com/atu-department-of-music-sets-spring-2022-concerts/>

Black History Month events continuing. Details located here, <https://www.atu.edu/diversity/>

Graduate fair scheduled for March 8-9 in the ATU bookstore

<https://www.arkansastechnews.com/registration-open-for-2022-suicide-prevention-walk/>

<https://www.arkansastechnews.com/atu-theatre-evolves-to-incorporate-filmmaking/>

<https://www.atu.edu/presidentsoffice/campus-news.php>

Dr. Bowen:

Congratulations to Dr. Carrie Phillips!

Have a good Spring Break!