

Academic Structure & Faculty Committee  
Strategic Planning Committee  
Tuesday, September 22, 2015  
Minutes

The Academic Structure & Faculty Committee met on Tuesday, September 22, 2015, in RPL 326. Members present: Jon Clements, John Freeman, Eric Lovely, and Lesley Snider, Lucas Maxwell, and V. Carole Smith. Absent: Pat Edmunds (prior commitment at Career Center).

Items discussed:

1. Diversity

a. Lack of diversity at Tech:

- i. Is it because searches don't have breadth or is it because of community
- ii. V. Carole Smith said that there are enough qualified candidates in pool to find a quality applicants.
- iii. The budget does not support placing ads in appropriate sources to reach support diversity. At former university, John Freeman placed ads in sources that encouraged applications of minorities. He will provide a list so these can be included in the white paper.

2. **Dr. Anglin Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs, Russellville**

a. Dr. Anglin provided list of responsibilities and suggested recommendations for change.

b. Integration with Ozark:

i. This is high-priority. This can be supported with:

- better communication.
- getting to better know each campus.
- Mike Murder, Chief Academic Officer at Ozark is now being invited to attend meetings on Russellville campus.
- Lesley Snider stated that she has students assigned advisors on this campus and that if a course is closed, there is no streamlined process to assist students in this process.
- Perhaps one specific person on each campus can be appointed as the 'go-to' for approval.
- Past governance resulted in silos being created and current president wants integration, inclusion, and shared governance, just the opposite of silos.
- Lucas Maxwell stated that the Registrar's website doesn't even list Ozark campus courses and the courses' equivalent courses at the Russellville campus.
- Dr. Anglin stated that if a student goes to Ozark, the student isn't given credit for the course on the Russellville campus. However, if the student goes to UAFS, they are given credit so if the student then decides to attend classes on Russellville campus, since the

course was accepted by UAFS, they are then given credit at the Russellville campus.

- Ozark campus has different financial aid because it is counted as a 2-year institution.
- Dr. Bowen is strongly supporting the Russellville campus and the Ozark campus to be one campus.

c. Technology

- a. will continue to be a challenge.
- b. will be used to support online education.
  - i. Studies need to be conducted for the 18-22 year old range to investigate:
    1. what do they need?
    2. consider limiting them to being enrolled in only one online course at a time during first year.
    3. consider blended classes for them.
    4. estimated 800,000 learners in state who have some college. This is a huge population of potential students. Tech needs to provide opportunities for these students to complete their education.
    5. Online needs to continue to grow because of this but also vetting of courses is an issue.
    6. Tech is considered the 'University for common Arkansans.' Dr. Anglin states that this is something to be proud of and he doesn't see Dr. Bowen guiding the University from this.

d. Advising

- a. Currently students with less than 60 hours are being advised by the Advising Center. Some students are still being advised by their primary advisor and then they go to Advising Center to get their registration codes.
- b. Recommends revisiting this issue in 2 years because it could be that the Advising Center will be accepting to advising students up to the point of 30 hours or less before transferring students back to primary advisors in their major.
- c. Lucas Maxwell asked about advising load. Dr. Anglin stated that this is an area that needs to be addressed. Are we to consider teaching load as 100 of our time or is advising included in that or is it a separate issue.

e. Step-down retirement

- a. A period of information gathering needs to occur.
- b. This is an important issue for senior faculty.
- c. Other universities in the state have supported this.
- d. This is an issue that the new VP of Academic Affairs will pursue.
- e. UCA has embraced this concept and seems to have done so for some time. A review of their policy should occur. Lucas Maxwell visited UCA's website and reviewed UCA's step-down retirement policy. This information will be sent to the committee members.

f. Structure of University

- a. Dr. Anglin stated that in the future the title of Vice President of Academic Affairs may be changed to Provost. It should be noted that any changes on the

Russellville campus will impact the Ozark campus so they shouldn't be taken lightly.

- b. The philosophy of Arkansas Tech needs to remain that of a teaching institution. Research is extremely important but the teaching philosophy is what Tech is all about.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Johnette Moody