

Administrative Council Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019
9 a.m.; Founders Chapel

Present: Stephen Spencer, Katherine Quinnell, Kim LaFevor, Debra Vaughn, Ronald Merritt, Jonathan Craft, Mike McCoy, Chris Latham, Sarah McAbee, Jackie Smith, Jeff Guenther, Joe Delap, Dr. Ron Ingle, Jackie Gooch, Carol Rachal, Brett Godbee (ASG president).

Not Present: Chris Moss, Belinda Krigel, Keith Ferguson.

The meeting commenced at 9:02 a.m., with Dr. Ingle presiding.

Dr. Ingle:

- Updated council members on low enrollment numbers, which are the result of high school graduation numbers being down, which affects enrollment in community colleges; their numbers are also down.
- Discussed programs and initiatives area universities and colleges are undertaking to bring enrollment numbers up, specifically UNA and UAH.
- Discussion with students brought to light that Athens State has a reputation as not being a transfer friendly institution.
- He discussed issues we need to look at across the campus to fix that.
- Suggested General Ed courses be offered at ASU, which would mean reclassifying 100-level courses to 300-level courses. Ronald Merritt interjected with the suggestion of looking at the math model where it has been done.
- Encouraged creativity and flexibility in dealing with the issue, which Dr. Spencer and his faculty are currently doing.
- Encouraged members of the Council to take action.
- Highlighted that we need to be more responsive toward the needs of students.
- Equivalency Course procedure needs to be streamlined by having the department chair sign off on equivalency courses taught in his/her department, instead of having multiple people sign off.
- Asked,
 - What is our message?
 - Is it consistent across all colleges?
 - What does this institution stand for and how do we get that message out to our students?
- Approved job search for Adult Degree Program, as the director needs to be out in the community, talking to business leaders and finding out their needs and how we can train our students to meet those needs.
- Discussed the possibility of providing housing through partnerships with area realtors and apartment owners.

Spencer: In reference to Gen Ed and equivalency courses:

- Courses need to be focused on career development success, communications, writing skills, digital literacy.
- Transfer equivalency courses have some students struggling to satisfy requirements.
- Agreed with Dr. Ingle; we are missing opportunity in ARSC to have Gen Ed courses available.

- Agreed with Dr. Ingle regarding the streamlining of the equivalency course procedure.
- Empower faculty to make those decisions and then have the chair sign off.
- Questioned the 51-hour rule, which seems to be a burr in the saddle of the faculty as well. It is a measure that only ASU employs, so it can be changed.
- Highlighted the fact that 20% of our students are transferring to four-year institutions; that is 1 in 5 students.

Delap:

- Explained the 51-hour rule as an artificial number created by ASU.
- Suggested using U.S. News and World Report's ranking of Huntsville as 7th most livable city in the U.S., as a marketing tool.

Updates from around the table:

Guenther:

- Updated council members regarding Institutional Research issues.
- Gathering information about Adult Degree Completion Program, which will include financial data.

Smith:

- SACS update: SACS cracking down on those teaching college credit courses at the high school level who are not qualified to teach such classes.
- SACS recognizes that college enrollment is down.
- SACS onsite team will visit April 13 – 15, 2021—distributed reminder – the team will also visit the ACA.
- Working on QEP.

McAbee:

- Enrollment update: Enrollment down across the board in terms of area community colleges.
- Reaching out to students sooner to avoid problems later: 81 students dropped for non-payment.
- Government shutdown has had an impact.
- Students are putting off registration until the last minute.

Latham:

- Marketing update: marketing to approximately 100,000 students.
- Web site redevelopment: sent out bids for quotes from different companies.
- Working on video interviews for the Bicentennial celebration.
- Sean of the South event sold out
- Three Chamber events this year – table sponsors – contact him to reserve a seat.

McCoy:

- Construction update: The bookstore has been temporarily moved to portable building #6.
- Sandridge Student Center restrooms down; looking into possible portable restrooms during construction.
- Classroom building renovations going well.

- Poplar tree update: after extensive testing, the decision has been made to treat the tree and then take another look inside before making an assessment.
- A company has been hired to examine all trees on campus for potential problems.

Craft:

- Audit completed – no findings.
-

Godbee: (Christopher “Brett” Godbee – ASG President)

- SGA has increased in active members in the past Fall semester
- That we have an SGA movie night in mid February that touches on African American history
- There are many student activities that we have planned this semester
- We are attending a leadership conference in Montgomery in early March, and are currently recruiting students to attend this conference with us
- We also plan to attend Higher Ed Day in Montgomery in early April
-
- The outlook of SGA this semester is very positive, as we anticipate more students to join and become active members.

Merritt:

- Athens State University and Calhoun Community College have entered into a faculty development partnership, which will culminate with a conference to be held at Athens State University on Friday, Nov. 5, titled “Mentoring in Higher Education for Faculty and Academic Staff.”
- The conference is designated to take place on a single day this year to test the interest of regional institutions of higher learning and Alabama community colleges. Various topics will be discussed.
- Solicitations for presenters will be distributed in late January.
- For the first time community college Computer Science faculty will have a thread of conference sessions that will be sponsored by AlaMATYC (Alabama Mathematical Association for Two-Year Colleges), which will take place Friday, Feb. 1.
- There is no state organization for Computer Science/Computer Information Systems. I proposed it to the Board and the attempt to begin a parallel organization was authorized.

Vaughn:

- **Faculty Senate update:**
- Faculty wants Veterans Day recognized by either closing the university or doing something special.
- Discussion of compensation for independent studies overload, pay structure.

LaFevor:

- ACBSP granted ASU a 10-year reaffirmation
- Received full accreditation for master’s program, with recommendations for improvement.
- Announced that IBM is offering digital badge training at zero cost to participants. The only cost associated with the event is getting faculty to NYC.
- Discussed submitting application to NSA to become a Center of Excellence
- NSA Reviewer has been assigned
- AGSC first annual transfer conference at Lawson, March 6 & 7.

- Registered for statewide HR Case conference in conjunction with SHRM.

Quinnell:

- Update on Interlibrary Loan
- Working on a program for the state of Alabama that will give any student taking classes access to a physical library no matter where they are.
- The Library will host an art history exhibit and book display during February in celebration of Black History month.

Spencer:

- ACA and group of Calhoun and ASU faculty are actively planning a fine arts summer camp in June. The camp will be completely staffed by Broadway actors
- ACA's Philip Mann working with Calhoun's Donna Estill to bring the play "The Scottsboro Boys" in 2020.
- Jan. 24: the multiple Tony Award, Grammy Award and Emmy Award winning creative team of the Broadway and London hit musical "The Scottsboro Boys" will be in Decatur to announce the Alabama premier of the show. The show will be a recreation of the original Broadway production with the celebrated creative team recreating their work in Alabama. The show will take place in the winter of 2020, and will be produced by Philip Mann for the ACA/ The Princess Theater, Red Mountain Theater Company in Birmingham and Broadway producer Catherine Schreiber.
- Feb. 8, Regional academic bowl competition will take place in 12 classrooms on campus, with 150 high school students, along with their advisors, from around the state.
- 100% success for our student teachers passing the Praxis exams.
- Announced that Drs. Cline and Jack have been awarded tenure.

Gooch:

- Update on presidential search:
 - Search profile completed and posted.
 - Feb. 15: training on access and review of applications.
 - Feb. 24 – March 4: Review applications
 - May 4: Present final candidate at board meeting.
 - Policy updates on hold due to presidential search.
- Two vacancies on BOT:
 - Randolph's and Shelton's terms have expired.
 - Shelton requests to be nominated.
- Dr. Ingle reaching out to possible nominees
- Students have been invited to present research at Friday's BOT meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10: 25 a.m.