

**Associate Deans Council  
October 11, 2023  
Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Tracey Baham, Angi Bourgeois, Steve Bullard, Jodee Crane, John Dickerson, Jim Dunne, Anastasia Elder, Dana Franz, Robert Green, Kim Hall, Christine Jackson, David Nolen, Sean Owen, Andy Perkins, Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, Kevin Rogers, Darrell Sparks, Jermaine Jackson, Mark Jimerson, Dominic Lippillo, Tina Gilliland

Dr. Tracey Baham called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM

**1. Consideration of the minutes**

Upon a motion by Dr. Kevin Rogers and a second by Dr. Robert Green, the minutes from September 27, 2023, were approved.

**2. Announcements**

- Dr. Tracey Baham announced the beginning of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the new course survey system. The survey itself will not change, but the system that administers it should be more user-friendly. Also, the scanner for the scantron machine has been updated and the new software is much more powerful and has more functions.
- Dr. Jim Dunne stated that there are new sabbatical forms that are required by General Counsel. Please use Adobe Acrobat when completing. This form is not compatible with Adobe Sign.
- Dr. Angi Bourgeois mentioned that the Art Department currently has an exhibit in the Welcome Center that is inspired by Walter Anderson and is by Adam Trust from Laurel, MS.
- Dr. Steve Bullard and several other council members stated he had trouble register for the lunch on Scholar's Day. Dr. Elder said she also had trouble and that the Admissions Office is handling registration for Scholars Day.

**3. Committee Chair Conditions – Dr. Tracey Baham**

- As the university brings on new ranks, particularly professor of practice and assistant teaching professor, what can their role be on graduate committees? Dr. Baham stated that those who are academically qualified with a terminal degree or some evidence of equivalent research in the field are eligible to serve as chair. The university may want to consider how these ranks can be used to offer more flexibility for graduate committees. Would it be helpful to classify graduate degree programs as focused on professional practice (in the case of medical professions), practitioner-based that serves a specific field, or research-based that creates new knowledge or contributes to the literature of the discipline? This classification could facilitate determining appropriate experiences and credentials for teaching graduate classes and chairing graduate committees.
- Dr. Darrell Sparks stated that in Human Science where we have the Ag Leadership, he did not want to exclude a teaching professor from being able to do research.
- Dr. Angi Bourgeois mentioned that in the College of Art, Architecture & Design (CAAD) they typically only hire people with their terminal degrees. Dr. Bourgeois added that doing so makes it difficult to designate the difference between the instructor ranks and teaching faculty.
- Dr. Steve Bullard stated there should be some latitude at the program level, because if we try to legislate something there will be a lot of variation at the program level.
- Dr. Tracey Baham stated that her counterparts in Florida have not seen much success with professors of practice who do not have a terminal degree making it through the faculty credential process with SACSCOC, whether as chair of graduate committees or as instructor of record in graduate courses.

- Dr. Tracey Baham thanked the council for the discussion and stated that more discussions would be forthcoming.

#### 4. AOP's

##### ➤ **AOP 12.21: Veterans' Academic Status**

Dr. Kevin Rogers made a motion to accept AOP 12.21 as presented and a second was received by Dr. Darrell Sparks.

Dr. Robert Green asked if this policy only for undergraduate students?

Dr. Steve Bullard suggested adding some language for graduate students should refer to the graduate catalog for the term they entered.

Dr. Steve Bullard mentioned a minor edit: "Academic Operating Policy and Procedure is defined in the first paragraph and the last paragraph". The council agreed to delete the definition in the last paragraph. Dr. Bullard also noted that (VA) be added to the first sentence in number one.

AOP 12.21 approved with the above-mentioned edits and will now move to the Deans for review.

#### 5. New Business

- Dr. Franz mentioned that she still needs a few IE reports. Please get these submitted as soon as possible.
- Dr. Anastasia Elder asked for an update on the sub-committee's recommendation on "4800 courses". Dr. Baham said she would ask Dr. Ryan for an update.

*Meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm*