

FACULTY SENATE

Provost's Report

November 1, 2017

Enrollment and related issues

Wintersession, an initiative to offer courses online 13 December-4 January, began enrolling before the spring registration period so that students could plan the additional hours (charged at the regular DE rate) into their schedules. As of the latest enrollment report, sixty-four grad students and 362 undergrads had registered for at least one of the thirty-seven courses on the schedule.

More aid for students with unmet need will be available next year. \$1.5 million will be reallocated from the Credit for Credits program, which has been suspended, owing to the program's apparent failure to meet its objectives in the first year (see the details at the end of this report).

Enrollment growth under the strategic enrollment management plan being developed now will be reviewed on campus during the next few months. The "30,000 students" frequently named as the goal is a guesstimate based on the typical enrollment of research universities with our mix of schools and colleges – but most such universities have higher persistence and undergraduate persistence rates than ours so sustainability without increases in those metrics appears to be difficult to manage, especially as state support (including financial aid) declines.

BOT tenure and nepotism committee

--Nepotism Policy recommended by committee approved by Board of Trustees 9/15, but it included a glitch preventing any two family members from working for the same supervisor unless specially addressed by a "management exception." This situation is obviously problematic for relatives currently employed, who are being asked for information to complete the exception provision; in the future, the exception will be resolved in the hiring process. The policy statement as passed has been forwarded to the senate secretary.

Dean Search Update

- a. Speed School – The committee has selected semi-finalists and will be interviewing them in person on December 4-5. The goal is to invite 3-5 candidates for their campus visits in January 2018.
- b. Nursing School – The committee has drafted the leadership profile. The search firm is recruiting applicants and screening them for suitability. The committee plans to meet on December 8 to give feedback on the developing applicant pool, and, on February 2 to select their semi-finalists. They will then meet for their in-person interviews on February 19-20, 2018.

Dean Five-Year Review

- a. SIGS – Dean Boehm's review has begun. Her self-assessment is due November 15. The committee will be named soon.

Budget matters

- The Budget Advisory Committee is completing the last draft of a values-and-principles document with metrics for evaluating budget allocations in accord with the 2020/21st Century goals. The final draft in this phase will be circulated to the constituency assemblies as well as the university and college leadership for review, with the intention to use the metrics in evaluating 2019 budget proposals.

- The prospect of a likely cut from the state—recalling that the state’s appropriation is a constantly shrinking portion of the university’s core budget, now less than 10%, and much less than that if affiliated operations are included—may not be known for certain until the end of the General Assembly’s long session, January-April 2018. Budget plans will have to consider re-allocating current resources to higher-priority items.
- As noted last month, the proliferation of revenue-sharing “deals,” formerly struck between the unit and the provost, with various ratios of return, provision periods and review expectations, causes concern in the present budget uncertainty. I will meet with the Senate’s academic programs/budget and planning committees 8 December to discuss a future template for these revenue arrangements that will eliminate the “deals” while at the same time promoting entrepreneurial initiatives in the university’s interest. Barring some legal impediment, I propose to gather and publish the current agreements and to establish the expectation that new agreements will be published and available with the program proposal at the time that it comes to the Senate for final recommendation and (as modified) to the Board for approval.

ACCELERATE - The academic consortium of the Atlantic Coast Conference recently sponsored the ACCelerate Festival at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. The festival highlighted creative exploration and research at the nexus of science, engineering, arts and design (SEAD). The festival featured performances, conversations, and 48 interactive installations from across the fifteen ACC schools around seven thematic areas: Civic Engagement, Art and Technology, Sustainability and Environment, Biomimetics, Health and Body, and Making. UofL had four exhibits representing Arts & Sciences, the Medical School, and the School of Public Health and Information Sciences. UofL’s participation was coordinated by Paul DeMarco, Associate Dean for SIGS. The alumni and governmental relations offices helped with invitations to a private reception; about thirty of our alums and governmental offices were represented.

Syllabus and book orders, two university compliance requirements that have to be met each term, have very different results this term. Almost 90% of the fall 2017 syllabi are “already” posted on Blackboard (where they are due at the *beginning* of each semester), a new high record of compliance for the task. Book orders were due OCTOBER 19, and the latest report indicated a much lower compliance rate for this one.

Professional Development

1. Academic Leadership Program
 - a. The third session, “Budget Update and Strategies,” was held earlier today. Susan Howarth discussed the current budget and how the university is managing it.
2. New Faculty
 - a. November 28: Marian Vasser will be speaking with new faculty on the topic “Facilitating Authentic Conversations in the Classroom.”

Credit-for-credits program review:

3,110 students were provided an award under the credit for credits program. Of that total, 2,969 received \$526 and 141 received an amount less than \$526. Students receiving less than \$526 either had financial aid totaling more than tuition less \$526 or their fall tuition charge was less than \$526. All of the 3,110 students were subject to scrutiny from the Student Financial Aid Office, often via manual processes. These are the various student groups who were awarded the credit:

- 234 students obtained their undergraduate degree and were granted the Credit for Credits award (since asking them to take courses above graduate requirements to meet the program expectations did not make sense). These students were mostly in grad or professional programs this fall.

- 447 Speed co-op students were given 15 credit hours in the calculation for each co-op performed. Co-op students have one-hour course load during their co-op terms, when they are typically on salary at their partner firm. At the request of the Speed administration last year, the credit was extended to them.
- 2,429 students obtained eligibility via the original expectations of the program (obtaining 30+ credit hours).
- Students who met the eligibility requirements but had financial aid that exceeded tuition already were not included in the program according to its original specifications.

These data suggest that the program failed in its goal to change student behavior, even with allowances for the relatively slow process of doing so. It appears that the credit went mainly to students already supported by other means (for example, co-ops) or with sufficient resources (including time away from jobs) to make the 30-hour threshold possible. The redirection of the credit funding will permit more closely targeted allocation of available funds to students with unmet financial-aid needs.