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Meeting Minutes

WKU Academic Affairs Council

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Academic Affairs Council
Minutes
March 6, 2019
1:30 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Cathy Carey, Larry Snyder, Cheryl Stevens, Corinne Murphy, Susann deVries, and Dennis George

Advisory Members Present: Terry Ballman, Cheryl Davis, Merrall Price, Beth Laves, John Sunnygard, Michael Smith, Rheanna Plemons, Ladonna Hunton, Kirk Atkinson and Amber Scott Belt

Guests Present: John Paul Blair

I. Approval of January 23, 2019 AAC Minutes

Dean deVries made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2019 AAC Meeting. Motioned passed without dissent.

II. Information Items:

A. A Campaign Primer for Campus Leaders

Mr. John Paul Blair shared with deans and advisory members information about upcoming philanthropy campaign priorities, proposed campaign primer and an update for previous philanthropy campaigns. Mr. Blair will follow-up with deans in the near future regarding next steps. Dr. Price requested a summary of where philanthropy gifts are directed (e.g. academics, athletics, research, scholarships, etc.). Mr. Blair agreed to forward that information as well.

B. Study Abroad Transitions

Mr. John Sunnygard shared with deans and advisory members that the Study Abroad and Study Away offices have been combined into one office. Mr. Jerry Barnaby, formerly Director of Study Away, has transitioned to work full-time with CCSA. Global Learning and International Affairs (GLIA) and is currently working closely with the Colonnade/General Education Committee to institute a fourth pillar of Connections courses that will include study abroad opportunities.

C. SACM Update

Mr. Sunnygard shared with deans and advisory members that WKU was removed from the Saudi Arabia Cultural Mission (SACM) approved universities list approximately two years ago. Mr. Sunnygard is working with college deans to develop a list of academic program opportunities for Saudi students. SACM has also agreed to pay an administrative fee, which will allow WKU to hire a full-

time individual who will be responsible for providing SACM with information as required for each Saudi student.

D. International Student Recruitment Update

Mr. Sunnygard shared with deans and advisory members a summary of international student recruitment modalities and the changes throughout GLIA to support these initiatives with emphasis on student success.

III. Discussion Items:

A. Commencement

Dr. Rheanna Plemons shared commencement updates. The Topper Walk will begin at 6:00p.m., and will be broken into two lines. Faculty and administrators will be asked to line up at 5:15p.m. Each graduate will receive a red towel. Deans will carry their college's gonfalon while leading their college's graduates. All outstanding graduates, Minton Award Winner, Ogden Scholar, etc. will be recognized on Friday evening followed by the conferring of degrees. Dr. Plemons reminded deans to contact the Special Events group and reserve their tent for the Big Red Bash. Individual college recognition ceremonies will occur on Saturday.

Dr. Plemons also indicated that Jostens will be mailing out the diplomas. Therefore, diploma covers will be given to each student during Commencement rather than scrolls. The Graduate Fair will be held March 27th & 28th from 10:00a.m.-6:00p.m. at the Alumni Center.

B. Academic Calendar Approval

Dr. Rheanna Plemons requested deans approve the proposed 2020 – 2021 Academic Calendar. Dean Murphy made a motion to approve the calendar seconded by Dean George. The motion passed without dissent. Dr. Plemons also shared that the Calendar Committee approved the common final exam test block requested by the Department of Mathematics.

C. ESL & ESLi Update

Mr. Sunnygard shared with deans and advisory members that ESLi is closing on WKU's campus in May, but have agreed to teach students through the summer. Mr. Sunnygard indicated that WKU is looking to incorporate English as a second language as part of our current Pathway program. Due to cost associated with offering English as a second language, international students will be required to demonstrate a higher level of English proficiency than is currently required by ESLi. GLIA is currently in the process of securing an I-17 to offer ESLi. Mr. Sunnygard requested deans provide their thoughts and feedback on the English and writing instruction needs of international students in support of their academic success.

D. Chamber of Commerce Memberships

Dr. Laves shared with deans and advisory members a current list of CPD Chamber memberships that are up for renewal. Dr. Laves also requested that deans consider how they may best leverage these memberships. Dr. Laves suggested combining memberships across multiple units.

E. Draft Policy 1.1241 *Extension of Probationary Period*

Dr. Amber Scott Belt requested deans approve the suggested edits to Policy 1.1241. Motion passed without dissent.

IV. Closing Comments/Requests

Dr. Ladonna Hunton shared a carryforward update.

Dr. Merrall Price shared an update regarding the Comprehensive Academic Program Evaluation and upcoming hearings.

Dr. Beth Laves shared an update concerning WKU's participation in Somerset Community College's University Center of Southern Kentucky. An agreement has not yet been signed, but is in the works.

Dr. Cheryl Davis shared that WKU's Carnegie classification has been changed from M-1 to R-3. The recommended change is currently in the public comment phase.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Scott Belt