

## VPAA Council

December 16, 2015  
Library 207, 1:30 pm

### Summary

**Members Present:** Deborah Vess; Becky Burton; Tamara Clunis; Kim Crowley; Megan Eikner; Daniel Esquivel; Daniel Ferguson; Kim Hays; Kristin McDonald-Willey; Toni Gray; Richard Pullen; Mark Rowh; R. Vincent

- I. Minutes Approval  
Email approval will occur for all previous sets of minutes.
- II. A few minutes of FUN and a luncheon, along with WOW awards- Superman and Wonder Woman awards for all of the VPAA members who are super heroes! Special Meritorious Service award for Dr. Kim Hays, for all that he has done for the East Campus.
- III. East Campus-Dean of Technical Education  
Congratulations to Megan Eikner. She has been chosen to fill the position of Dean of Technical Education. A special thank you was issued to Dr. Kim Hays for his remarkable work as the interim dean.
- IV. Budget Process  
The budget meeting held on Tuesday with the Cabinet was positive. Dr. Vess is very hopeful about the way this process will conclude.
- V. Honors Trip  
Dr. Vess will accompany the honors students will be on a trip in January to Poland and Lithuania. She will be out of the office through January 14<sup>th</sup>. She will be available via email.
- VI. Leadership Retreat  
Dr. Vess asked for the Council's feedback on the Leadership Retreat. Members reported a a sense of enhanced collegiality and fellowship And a renewed focus on the strategic plan.
- VII. Block Scheduling  
Dr. Vess was pleased with the initial roll-out of eight-week classes. In the Fall of 2016, the college will aim to offer 50% of our schedule on the eight-week format and on a block schedule. Dr. Vess asked Dr. Clunis for a quick report on the success of block scheduling in the Developmental Education area.

Dr. Clunis: In the developmental reading blocks, students had a 75% success rate (grade of A-C) which was 20% higher than if the student took a reading class alone, plus they received college credit. She and Dr. Ferguson are looking to expand the blocks, with the right faculty members, for these classes. They are excited about the Fall 2015 outcomes; there has never been this high a success rate in the past.

Dr. Vess emphasized the importance of advisement for students so that they are on guided pathways and take the classes that are mapped out for their degree and/or endorsement area and/or career cluster.

Dr. Vess asked the Council to begin looking at programs to see if we can streamline our degree programs. For example, instead of having an English major, we might steer students to the General Studies Arts and Humanities track, with an emphasis in English. Right now, we offer five or more 2000 level classes at Amarillo College, but an English major only needs one 2000 level class to transfer to WT (and most other universities). So, if we stop offering five 2000 level courses, we can free faculty loads that would enable more coverage of English Comp classes, but still allow the student to have the necessary classes to transfer to a university. We need to look at all programs to see if this is an option in order to streamline our degree programs, align them with guided pathways, and make better use of faculty resources. Dr. Vess asked Becky Burton to highlight some of the areas where programs could be streamlined.

Becky Burton: If you look at the blocks that were created, and then look at the A.A. and A.S. degree plans, you will see that most classes for the degree plans are the same as the General Education blocks that were created; only the electives change for those degrees (with the exception of Music).

Kristen ran some numbers that showed the graduates for each program. Some programs do not have many completers.

Dr. Vess then divided the Council into groups to review programs with low completion rates. The council reviewed the overlap between majors and the guided pathways now established within the General Studies program. Discussion followed.

We need to make sure our advisors have the tools to guide our students into the correct pathway. This will be key to our success.

#### VIII. Honors Program/Travel

Dr. Vess wants to change the Honors to incorporate a global leadership experience. Service learning is very important; for

example, our students will be working in an orphanage for two days on this trip.

In addition, Health Sciences and Nursing are trying to set up an International Study opportunity for their students in Costa Rica.

IX. Faculty Workload

There have been questions from faculty concerning their overload pay. There will be changes in the faculty loads; we need to make sure that we are SACSCOC compliant with our faculty. If SACSCOC sees that we consistently have massive overloads, they will think we do not have the required faculty for our institution. We will need to reduce the overloads, which will make some faculty unhappy, since they will not have the extra income. They will, of course, still have their base pay.

Over time, hopefully we can get more faculty lines. English, Math, History, and Speech all need more lines. It will take a while to add more faculty; all new lines must be justified. Summer pay is another area that must be looked at; we must have a minimum enrollment for the class or we will need to prorate pay.

Departments may need to think about raising caps before the non-payment purge.

X. DWFI List

We need to choose five courses for the Foundations of Excellence data. After a brief discussion, these classes were chosen:

College Algebra  
First Year Seminar  
Anatomy and Physiology  
Reading Technology  
Intermediate Algebra

XI. First Faculty Meeting

The first faculty meeting for the Spring 2016 semester will be held on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Vess wants this to be positive meeting. It is time to start anew; please think of things that you will like to have on the agenda. We need to talk about the good stuff and celebrate it.

Dr. Vess commented that today's conversation was excellent, and wished all the best of holidays.

Meeting adjourned 3:28 pm.