



Academic Affairs Committee

August 15, 2023

DRAFT Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Priddy (Chair); Mae Douglas; George Hoyle; Tim Rice; Linda Sloan

OTHERS PRESENT: Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr.; Dr. Debbie Storrs, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor; Bob Shea, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Dr. Terri Shelton, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement; Dr. Andrew Hamilton, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Undergraduate Studies; Regina McCoy, Associate Vice Provost for Retention & Student Success; Dr. Mac Banks, Dean, Bryan School of Business and Economics; Dr. Bill Brown, Associate Dean, Bryan School of Business and Economics; Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff; Kelly Harris, Assistant Secretary to the Board; and other members of the administration, faculty, staff, and general public.

PROCEEDINGS:

Chair Priddy called the meeting to order at 1:45pm and read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement. No conflicts or appearances of were identified.

The roll call was read, and a quorum was confirmed.

Minutes of the March 14, 2023 Academic Affairs Committee meeting were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

AAC – 1 Academic Affairs Update

Provost Storrs briefed the committee on key initiatives this year, which include a continued focus on student success and retention, implementation of our Quality Enhancement Plan (Spartans Thrive) which focuses on student well-being, SACSCOC reaffirmation, the ongoing Academic Portfolio Review, and Faculty Workload.

The Provost also provided a brief update on the innovation and collaboration between the teams from the Residential Colleges (RCs) and Lloyd International Honors College. There will be four residential colleges in 2024, each with a theme: Medicine and Community Health (North Spencer); Law and Social Justice (South Spencer); Arts, Design, and Media (Ashby); and Environmental and Social Sustainability (Strong). The Residential Colleges and our Undergraduate Research Office will now report to Dr. Omar Ali, Dean of the Lloyd International Honors College (they previously reported through our University Teaching and Learning Commons). This reorganization will ensure we amplify core elements that enhance student engagement including research opportunities, co-curricular activities, and courses, and that we reduce expenses.

The Committee also heard an update on the Academic Portfolio Review, the related timeline, and walked through the website that provides data and draft rubrics. The provost has engaged faculty in the process and will continue to do so. Chancellor Gilliam will receive recommendations in early January for final decisions.

Provost Storrs also discussed the Faculty Workload Policy that will be developed by a faculty and associate dean work group, co-led by Provost Fellows Dr. Joyce Clapp and Dr. Amy Vetter. The Board of Governors approved a new workload policy this summer, requiring each institution to update their individual policies to better capture the full workload of faculty. This work will occur this fall and will lead to a draft policy for the Academic Council of Deans and the Provost to consider.

AAC – 2 Student Success Update

Associate Vice Provosts Andrew Hamilton and Regina McCoy provided an update on ongoing efforts to improve academic outcomes for students, sharing data showing that the 2022 summer course redesign effort, known as the Summer Reboot, resulted in 166 more course completions than the prior fall term, saving students nearly \$150,000 in costs for repeated courses.

The team also showed data on decreased DFW rates and improved grade performance that resulted from the efforts of 160 faculty members who completed micro-credential courses in teaching offered by the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE). Not only are academic outcomes better, but faculty also who participated have reported that they are learning and implementing new teaching practices. At the start of the training, 75% of instructors said

they believe all students can be successful in their course. After completing the training that percentage rose to 94%.

The team gave an update on the 30 Hour Challenge, a program that incentivizes students to carry the 30 hours per year necessary for degree completion in four years with support to take summer classes. More than 3,000 mostly first-year students over the last two academic years have accepted the challenge. The overwhelming majority of them completed it, finishing their first year on track to graduate in four years.

AAC – 3 Academic Affairs Strategic Investment (Bryan School of Business & Economics)

Bryan School Dean Mac Banks and Associate Dean Bill Brown gave a presentation on the new BONUS! Initiative, a strategic pilot program designed to increase undergraduate online enrollment in the Bryan School of students aged 25-45 who have some college experience, with emphasis on underserved populations.

The Bryan School will use an aggressive marketing campaign to identify prospects and build out a recruitment and advising team that will use a rapid-response, high-touch approach that has been so successful in building the Bryan School graduate enrollments.

The largest online program will offer courses in 7-week terms instead of a conventional semester as a “pilot within the pilot”.

While only two years of funding is guaranteed, by the end of year 5 we expect to be in a steady state at 200 more students on expenses of \$613,000 and revenues of \$2,040,000.

INFORMATION ITEMS

AAC – 4 Written Update on Research and Engagement (Shelton)

Vice Chancellor Terri Shelton also briefly discussed the research and creative highlights happening in her unit. For the 11th year in a row, awards have increased, and we are well above the 5% target. Award dollars have increased by just under \$15.7M (30.1%). This is the highest amount of award dollars in UNCG’s history and represents a 73.9% increase over the last 5 years.

AAC – 5 Candidates Awarded Degrees and Certificates in May 2023 (Storrs)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Harris
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees