

-APPROVED-

Academic Council Minutes

Gold Room – Bibb Graves Hall

July 16, 2008

Present:

Dr. Rebecca Turner, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Dr. Joe Delap, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Tim King, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
Dr. Sherri Restauri for Dr. Frank King, Associate Vice President for Distance Education
Mr. Randy Harper, Vice President for Information Technology
Dean Bill Carr, College of Graduate Studies & Continuing Education
Dean Bill Fielding, College of Commerce & Business Administration
Dean Cynthia Harper, College of Education and Prof. Studies
Dean Sarah Latham, College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Dean Earl Wade, College of Arts and Sciences
Mr. John-Bauer Graham, Dean, Library Services
Dr. Jay Ketterer, Director, International House and Programs
Dr. Alicia Simmons, Director, Institutional Research and Assessment
Mr. Ralph Burke, Director, JSU-Gadsden
Ms. Kelly Osterbind, Registrar
Dr. Brent Cunningham, Faculty Senate President

Absent:

Ms. Jennifer Nix, SGA President
Dr. Louise Clark, Assoc. Dean, College of Commerce & Business Administration
Mr. Joe Whitmore, Director, Special Services

Old Business:

1. Minutes of the June 18, 2008 meeting were approved as amended.
2. Mr. Harper provided a Banner update. Financial Aid module changes being made are now completed. Extensive work is being performed on financial reporting, with plans to

- address all issues. The emergency notification system being implemented in the fall. After tests with smaller groups have been successful, larger test groups will be formed. It has been determined that cell-phone notification will be most efficient. A request will go out to update those numbers. Mr. Graham reported that Mr. Sean Ponder will be taking over direction of the Luminis project. Housing recently went online with the new look.
3. Application Counts for Fall 2008 were provided by Dr. Tim King along with a handout. While first-time freshman numbers are up, transfers accepted are off due to missing documents from applicants.
 4. Dr. Simmons provided handouts (charts) visually representing Credit Hours for summer terms. As the charts show, numbers were up at the beginning of the summer, whereas later they were down. She noted that Marathon S is counted with fall term. Dr. Turner commented that the charts are an easy-to-follow representation of summer term by term. Also, a chart showing summer credit hour production compared to other Alabama colleges and universities for 2006 and 2007 she found useful. Charts show summer CHP as a percentage of fall and overall annual CHP. Mr. Burke pointed out that comparison numbers between JSU and Gadsden State Community College with regard to 100- and 200-level classes would be equally useful. Dr. Harper commented that distance education courses in Education probably account for UWA large increase over a one-year period. She also noted the high incentive (pay) to teach online offered at UWA. Ms. Restauri said that UWA has been working toward this goal, with summer institutes also creating large summer CHP. Numbers in each section, she believed, however, were small.
 5. In other old business, Dr. Cunningham reported that Faculty Senate was interested in the initiative to change fall and spring schedules to allow more time for grading of final exams. Dr. Turner noted that Faculty Senate and SGA presidents were to henceforth attend all BOT academic committee meetings. Dr. Cunningham was impressed with the committee's work to keep academics highly visible among the BOT members and their proceedings. An example of this was the committee's role in increasing support for honors programs.

New Business

1. Dr. Cunningham reported that members of the Faculty Senate had raised questions about the possibility of creating an interactive/ searchable course schedule listing, especially helpful for the summer terms, in which finding individual courses can be

challenging. Running headers are needed to ease searching. Ms. Osterbind reported that search by course is now accessible in self-serve Banner (also available via the DL web site, this according to Dr. Restauri). Also, Ms. Osterbind reported on a change of publishers for the class schedule booklets.

2. Drs. Turner and Fielding expressed their appreciation for advice provided to aid in balancing the budget. Funds from vacant positions not filled will provide money to cover much of the projected deficit. Position requests this year will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, with the ultimate goal being that the students not experience effects from the cuts. Dr. Fielding outlined the process followed and results, and he was grateful for the measures taken to provide for a balanced budget. Dr. Carr commented (in connection with recent measures to cut costs) that by covenant the CDC building had to remain dedicated to child care. Dr. Turner concluded with a request for information by college on effects of budget cuts.

3. There were no further items of new business.

Announcements

Dr. Tim King reported ongoing tracking of preview day registrants, 83% of whom matriculate to fall semester and maintain an average GPA of 2.7. 77% of the same registrants retain to spring with a similar GPA. Plans are to go to one full-day preview day and three shorter registration days, two on Fridays and one on Saturday. The format would be similar to the one currently followed. Dr. Wade expressed concern about potential for low numbers of high school students attending on a Friday. Connected to that, Dr. Cunningham raised the issue of the timing of announcing tuition waivers that JSU provides to graduating seniors, recommending that waivers be provided earlier to capture more high-performing students. It should, in his view, be considered an opportunity rather than an expense, especially with regard to over-30 ACT graduates. Dr. Turner requested that a recommendation to that effect be drafted to present to the president. Dr. Latham recommended forming a team to target such exclusive students. Dr. Ketterer suggested lending greater emphasis to retention initiatives in the strategic plan. He also expressed concern that there had been few updates on the university's master plan (for the campus physical plant).

Dr. Carr asked about the status of JSU's bond issues. Dr. Turner had on hand information concerning the proposed stadium and housing cost breakdowns. Bond payments are to be covered by housing fees over the years. The stadium improvement costs are to be covered by fund raising. Dr. Cunningham commented on the small number ("n") of cohort surveys returned for purposes of determining fund-raising potential for the stadium project. He also suggested the incorporation

of an honors floor in the new housing unit.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Delap, AVPAA