Academic Advisory Council

Minutes

Tuesday, July 8, 2014
Sterne Library, Room 174
10:00-11:30 a.m.


Members Absent. Elizabeth Fisher, Maria Hopkins, Eric Martin, Linda Moneyham, Grant Savage.

Guest. Chris Blackmon.

Dr. Jackie Moss, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Due to the new members of the Council, she asked that everyone introduce themselves by name and school/unit affiliation.

Executive Director’s Report. Website. Dr. Martha Bidez shared UAB online website updates as a work in-progress, particularly related to the Strategic Plan. Research. A state-of-the-art multi-media gaming studio for online course development is embedded in the $9.7 million grant that was submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor last week by the UAB Online staff. The focus of the proposal is a strong online presence in the workforce for women veterans and women in poverty. Partner. A new committee has been formed, chaired by Harlan Sands, to evaluate the efficacy of UAB partnering with a third-party vendor for enrollment growth. Dr. Karen Kennedy from the Academic Advisory Council (AAC) is part of that committee, reporting that they have met once with a follow-up meeting on July 9. The timeline shows an end date of August 2, to complete the committee’s review and to make a recommendation to the Provost. Sloan-C. UAB will be submitting nominations for two awards for Excellence in Online Teaching through Sloan-C Consortium. Nominations were received from the School of Engineering, the Collat School of Business, and two from the School of Education. The Advisory Council Executive Committee (Chair + 3 Committee Chairs) will make the final selection for UAB nominees. Honor Society. A new chapter is being established on campus for Alpha Sigma Lambda, for adult learners who pursue non-traditional education. Transcription. A full-time transcriptionist for online services will be available effective October 1, 2014. This service will be shared campus-wide. Tutoring. A student assistant for online Math and Science tutoring may be hired effective October 1. This will be coordinated with Student Services who is providing the service this summer. Canvas. Dr. Bidez asked Chris Blackmon to provide an update. On August 25-26, a student party is planned to welcome back students
to campus for the fall semester and provide excitement about the new LMS, Canvas. “Canvas On-the-Green” is scheduled to include Blaze and Panda (Canvas mascot) as well as the Golden Girls. Currently, Chris meets with LMS administrators on a weekly basis. BlazerNET, the eReporter, Banner, etc. have information about Canvas. Chris is providing student training twice weekly. An Open Lab is available on Fridays in the CTL. Faculty issues have been acknowledged with some ongoing through the UAB system (i.e., Respondus). There should be a smooth transition between Blackboard ending and Canvas continuing to roll out in the fall. **Authentication.** ProctorFree is being piloted actively all summer for any instructor who is available. Authentication software is a SACS requirement, and UAB Online hopes to absorb that cost.

**Standing Committee Reports.** **Quality Curriculum (QCC).** Dr. Martha Bidez reported on behalf of Dr. Linda Moneyham. Portions of the Strategic Plan have been identified for the QCC to take responsibility. **Policies and Procedures (PPC).** Dr. Donna Slovensky summarized the committee’s work on gap analysis with Dr. Elizabeth Fisher comparing SACS, Sloan-C, and Quality Matters standards. The self-study document has been submitted to UAB’s SACS office for Dr. Linda Lucas to approve. The set of faculty procedures for proctoring online exams communication to students has been drafted for PPC members to provide feedback. The committee will make recommendations to the AAC and schools within the university. Discussion followed about the protocol for obtaining approval of a policy. Dr. Chad Epps, Faculty Senate-Faculty Policies & Procedures Committee, serves as Advisor to the PPC. **Enabling Technologies (ETC).** Nancy Wingo shared that surveys are being conducted for the authentication options. Web conferencing selection has been narrowed to 6 options. The ETC reviewed Student Success goals from the Strategic Plan. Some are being recommended for another committee due to overlap of responsibilities.

**Word on the Street.** **Canvas.** Faculty are commenting about minor limitations that need to be addressed in transitioning from Blackboard to Canvas—such as the gradebook. Dr. Moss asked that an Agenda item be added for future Council meetings, “LMS Issues and Status” by Chris Blackmon.

**Outgoing Message.** Council members are asked to share the continued work on the Strategic Plan with the UAB SACS reaccreditation application in-progress; the tracking of known issues and resolutions for Canvas implementation; the selection process for authentication software by fall 2014; the selection process for Web conferencing; and the first organized process for Sloan-C awards.

Dr. Moss adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.