

Academic Update September 2, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

The 2015 Faculty Attitude Survey was released to campus on August 13, 2015. The results of that study provide valuable feedback about areas of concern among faculty. A recurring theme is communication. Faculty members emphasized the importance of being kept informed about administrative deliberations, especially those that have an impact on the academic community. Toward that end I will begin to provide faculty with periodic updates throughout the school year. I trust the updates will prove informative. As always, our office welcomes inquiries about any topic related to the academic life of the campus. If there are specific areas you wish to be addressed in a future update, please let me know.

Council of Academic Deans (COAD) meeting on August 31

1. We addressed the issue of academic administrators with faculty tenure. There is an absence of UNA policy on how these individuals, should they wish to do so, return to classroom teaching. We agreed to seek a legal opinion as a first step in developing a policy for shared governance review.
2. We discuss Profiles in Excellence. How do we reach 100% faculty participation in this effort? A new software product is being reviewed that would include a variety of information, including scholarly efforts by faculty. That information can then be accessed as needed for efforts such as accreditation and for documents such as Profiles in Excellence. Dr. Andrew Luna requested that UNA staff engaged in scholarship be given acknowledgment in the document. The Provost will discuss this with the Faculty Senate Chair.
3. Dean Davis gave an update on a QEP conference he attended and Dean LeFort gave an update on an ACHE meeting that focused on new program and assessment guidelines.
4. The college deans continued a review of tenure and promotion language in the Faculty Handbook. The goal is to streamline the process and make it more transparent. Once the changes are approved at the COAD level, there will be an information session for faculty prior to submission to shared governance.

September 10, 2015

The UNA trustees will have their fall meeting on this date. The meeting will be in the GUC Performance Center and is open to the public. The 2015-16 UNA budget will be approved at this meeting. Also on this date, the new Science and Technology Building will be dedicated. The dedication is at 1:00 pm and the campus is welcome. We will also celebrate Constitution Day on that date and Chris Phillips, author of Socrates Café and Constitution Café, will speak at 4:30 in the Performance Center.

Recent Study

Purdue University commissioned a Gallup study of 30,000 recent graduates to see how they were doing as adults. The most successful graduates reported on several things in university life that were crucial to their success. They included: a professor who made them excited about learning; encouragement by a mentor; project-based learning; a job or internship that applied knowledge, and engagement with extracurricular activities.

Investiture of President Kitts

August 28, 2015 was a special day in the life of UNA. Thanks to all the faculty for their support of the activities throughout the week. The stage has been set for a very successful school year.