Academic Restructuring Process

March 1, 2013

As you are aware, Chancellor Anderson has asked Faculty Senate President Laura Smith-Olinde to partner with me in considering the optimal structure for the Academic Affairs division. As partners, we will implement a process that allows widespread participation across campus to review and rethink how the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) is organized to deliver its academic mission. It is expected that the process will yield recommendations and outcomes that accomplish the following:

- Enhance interdisciplinary collaboration to facilitate UALR’s timely response to the changing needs of the city, state and nation in terms of curricula, community engagement, and research.
- Implement an efficient academic structure that will result in cost savings allowing UALR to match available resources to strategic priorities.

The review of the Academic Affairs division requested by Chancellor Anderson includes the academic departments and colleges, Office of the Provost, Donaghey Scholar Program, Office of Undergraduate Academic Advising, Academic Success Center, Graduate School, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs which now houses the Graduate Institute of Technology (GIT), Ottenheimer Library, Nanotechnology Center, Sequoyah Research Center, Center for Arkansas History and Culture, and the Center for Innovation and Commercialization.

Campus-wide participation will be encouraged through the establishment of representative groups as well as open “town hall” meetings within colleges and external stakeholder interviews.

Representative Task Forces

The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate has selected members for a task force from nominations submitted by the colleges and key councils/committees of the Faculty Senate. Members of the Academic Restructuring Faculty Task Force (FTF) are:

- Adriana Lopez-Ramirez - College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Cynthia Daily - College of Business
- Kent Layton - College of Education
- Shannon Collier-Tenison - College of Professional Studies
- Matthew Gifford - College of Science
- Steve Minsker - College of Engineering and Information Technology
- John DiPippa - Law School (Chair)
- Karen Russ - Ottenheimer Library
- Tom Clifton - Undergraduate Council
- Amanda Nolen - Graduate Council
- Andrew Wright - Faculty Senate Executive Committee
- Elizabeth Sherwin - Planning and Finance Committee
- Sarah Beth Estes – Academic Restructuring Liaison (non-voting member)
A second task force will provide a voice for the UALR Chairs Council. This group is comprised of two department chairs from each college and a Law School representative as follows:

- George Jensen - College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- John Kirk - College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Jeffrey Hamm - College of Business
- Mark Funk - College of Business
- Elizabeth Vaughn-Neely - College of Education (Chair)
- Bill Jacobson - College of Education
- Olaf Hoerschelmann - College of Professional Studies
- Jeff Walker - College of Professional Studies
- Donna Quimby - College of Science
- Haydar Al-Shukri - College of Science
- Elizabeth Pierce - College of Engineering and Information Technology
- Mike Tramel - College of Engineering and Information Technology
- Felicia Epps - Bowen School of Law
- Sarah Beth Estes – Academic Restructuring Liaison (non-voting member)

The FTF and Chairs’ Task Force (CTF) will:

- Review existing UALR Academic Affairs division structure.
- Recommend by May 15, 2013 at least two academic structures that will better position our institution to accomplish the two outcomes listed above.

Dr. Sarah Beth Estes will facilitate communication between the task forces. Dr. Estes will work with the FTF college representatives to convene town hall meetings with faculty stakeholders from each college. In addition, she will convene interviews with external stakeholders and a town hall meeting for the UALR community at-large. All information from these meetings will be shared with the two task forces. Dr. Estes also will serve as a liaison between the task forces and the Deans’ Council.

Recommendations from the task forces will be submitted to an Academic Restructuring Steering Committee comprised of the following:

- Five representatives of the FTF
- Two representatives of the CTF
- Student Representative
- Representative from the Office of Education and Student Services
- Two representatives from the Board of Visitors
- One representative from the Office of Development
- One representative from the Staff Senate
- Associate Vice Chancellor-University Advancement
The Academic Restructuring Steering Committee (ARSC) will make recommendations to the Provost by August 15, 2013. The Provost will submit recommendations to the Chancellor by October 1, 2013.

Figure 1 below summarizes the process to be followed in reviewing and rethinking UALR’s academic structure.

![Figure 1. Academic Restructuring Process*](image)

* Sarah Beth Estes will serve as the Process Liaison between all Task Forces, the Deans’ Council, and the Provost.

Table 1 below provides a detailed timetable for the process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FTF members chosen</td>
<td>Faculty Senate Executive Committee</td>
<td>2-20-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTF meets with Provost and receives charge</td>
<td>FTF, Provost</td>
<td>2-27-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dean’s Council suggests topics/questions for stakeholder meetings</td>
<td>Dean’s Council, Liaison</td>
<td>2-27-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTF receives charge from Provost</td>
<td>CTF, Liaison, Faculty Senate President</td>
<td>3-1-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restructuring information accessible on Blackboard</td>
<td>Liaison</td>
<td>3-4-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Responsible Parties</td>
<td>Date Range</td>
</tr>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTF representatives convene college town halls</td>
<td>FTF, Liaison</td>
<td>3-8-13 to 3-15-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interviews with external stakeholders and alumni</td>
<td>Liaison</td>
<td>3-4-13 to 3-29-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTF, CTF, and Deans’ Council receive Liaison summary report from college town hall meetings and interviews with external stakeholders and alumni</td>
<td>FTF, CTF, Deans’ Council Liaison</td>
<td>4-1-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTF, CTF, and Deans’ Council preliminary proposals/recommendations due to Liaison</td>
<td>FTF, CTF, Dean’s Council Liaison</td>
<td>4-23-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liaison provides proposals/recommendations to University community for consideration via Blackboard site</td>
<td>Liaison</td>
<td>4-23-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>University Town Hall to discuss proposals/recommendations</td>
<td>Liaison</td>
<td>4-26-13</td>
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<td>FTF, CTF, and Deans’ Council incorporate University Town Hall feedback into final proposals/recommendations</td>
<td>FTF, CTF, Deans’ Council Liaison</td>
<td>4-29-13 to 5-14-13</td>
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<td>FTF, CTF, and Deans’ Council proposals/recommendations due to Provost</td>
<td>FTF, CTF, Deans’ Council Liaison</td>
<td>5-15-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final proposals/recommendations posted to Blackboard for University community review</td>
<td>FTF, CTF, Deans’ Council Liaison</td>
<td>5-16-13 to 8-15-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Restructuring Steering Committee (ARSC) deliberations</td>
<td>ARSC</td>
<td>5-16-13 to 8-15-13</td>
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<td>ARSC recommendations due to Provost</td>
<td>ARSC</td>
<td>8-16-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provost considers recommendations of ARSC</td>
<td>Provost</td>
<td>8-17-13 to 9-30-13</td>
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<td>Provost submits academic restructuring recommendations to the Chancellor</td>
<td>Provost</td>
<td>10-1-13</td>
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