

EIT Assembly Meeting
Minutes
May 6, 2014

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Srikanth Pidugu at 9:34 am
2. Wright made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Seconded by Tramel. Motion passed by voice vote.
3. Dean Sandgren began his remarks by welcoming the faculty to the 2014-2015 academic year.
 - a. Dean Sandgren introduced Lillian Wichinski, Director of the UALR Community Connections Center (CCC). Wichinski explained the role of the CCC at UALR. It includes Children International, Service Learning and Cooperative Education. It will be broadened to become the portal for public engagement. In the Fall, she will be sending a poll to determine the relationships that already exist between faculty and the community. In the Spring, the inaugural Service Learning Academy will begin. The Dean will appoint 2 liaisons from the college. The CCC will assist in teaching faculty how to incorporate service learning into programs. The CCC is located in the University Plaza building at the south end of campus. The CCC is working on how to integrate service learning into the Tenure and Promotion process on a time scale of 3-5 year plan. For more information on how this is done elsewhere – see Tulane University – ‘ public engagement’.
 - b. Introduced Chairmen to introduce New Faculty –

Mike Tramel from Construction Management introduced – Dr. Lashun King Thomas (Environmental Engineering); Dr. Hank Bray (Civil Engineering)

Liz Pierce from Information Science introduced – Dr. Dirk Reiners, (EAC); Dr. Carolina Cruz-Neira (EAC) (our 1st Arkansas Research Alliance Scholar)

Jeff Connelly from Earth Sciences introduced –Dr. Jeff Connelly, Dr. Laura Ruhl, Dr. Mike DeAngelis, Dr. Rene Shroat-Lewis, Mr. Jay Sims, Dr. Beth McMillan
 - c. Notable Faculty Research awards for EIT are holding stable at \$2+ million; Thanks to the faculty for all of the work that they do.
 - d. Enrollment - is not going well for campus. But in EIT that is not the case. UALR overall looks like enrollment will be down ~10% or almost 1000 students from the previous year. The trend is not good. Enrollment and retention will be words you will hear for the next few years. Budgets created as of July 1 were based on 2% decrease. So, budgets are not sufficient – will likely be cut. What will happen to the institution? Enrollment has been done by other people in the past – now this must be done by all at the institution. 100 students pays tuition that equals \$600,000. UALR has lost students in the last 4 years, has lost tuition dollars. EIT has averaged growth of 10% over last 3 years. While campus has negative growth problem, EIT has had positive trend. A lot of that growth is due to new programs.
 - e. Phase II Reorganization report –

- i. Phase I suggested EIT combine departments. But we decided to leave departments as they are. We are a college/dept based model – stick with that model.
- ii. Earth Sciences was added to the college. A space request has been submitted to the Provost to consolidate into a common area on ETAS 4th floor
- iii. Plan to roll out PRESTEM program summer 2015. The goal will be to get students up to speed on math over the summer. Modeled on the young black male initiative. If we can get them math ready and a background in composition we will help students be successful. If a student spends one summer in the PRESTEM program, it could likely save one year of tuition later.
- iv. Structure of EIT new organization will have a coordinating council concept - like 'schools' organized around current research topics, not disciplines. We will implement starting with one area – these councils will go beyond EIT. The purpose of Councils are for attracting funding and to build new niche programs
 - 1. Coordinating Council for Computing, Information and Big Data
 - a. Computer Science
 - b. Information Science
 - 2. Coordinating Council Integrated Systems, Engineering and Engineering Technology
 - a. Engineering Technology
 - b. Systems Engineering
 - 3. Coordinating Council for Built Environment and Sustainable Earth Sciences
 - a. Construction Management and Civil & Construction Engineering
 - b. Earth Science
 - c. Would share responsibility for Environmental Engineering
- v. Chancellor's Retreat report – From the Huron Education Group –the overall message is that UALR needs to improve the enrollment process; needs to improve retention and graduation rates.
 - 1. areas recommended to pay attention to –
 - a. Target support to students who we can help succeed
 - b. Link learner with community and university – talk about specific points of engagement – Community Engagement Center; gets back to what makes us unique
 - c. UALR Enrollment vision – how to lock students in to being successful
 - 2. UALR has in the past tried to be everything to everybody – on some aspects, we are traditional, on other, we are non-traditional.
- vi. For EIT this year –
 - 1. Focus on Recruiting and Retention

2. Research – implement some findings of ad hoc research subcommittee – report from a few years ago – may reconvene committee to bring that up to date
3. Remain student focused
4. Service to Community and Profession
5. Expect more changes – reorg. is not over

vii. Questions? –

Wright – where is the ad hoc subcommittee report? Sandgren – I will provide it.

Bhattacharyya - I think it went to the list serve

Jovanovic – observation about recruiting, graduation, enrollment – I have zero true freshman. There is a segment of students we are not reaching to come here.

?? - Is there long-term plan to balance residency vs commuter students? Policy to force students to live on campus was widely publicized, but the reversal was not

Blacklock –in the 1970’s, we had a two year Engineering program – students began here – then transferred. It was a successful program.

Sandgren - Digital strategy is focusing on those things – but they need input from the college – they need good communication.

4. Announcements

- a. Vice-President Pidugu opened the floor for nominations for a 1 year appointment to the Graduate Council – to fill the term remaining from Guoliang Huang. Graduate Council meets on Weds 3-4 pm. Nominees need to be able to make these meetings.

Coskun Bayrak was nominated, no other nominations.

Tschumi – moved that we accept by acclamation, 2nd by Trammel

motion passed by voice vote

- b. Chairs will decide a time for EIT Assembly time slot
- c. Andrew Wright – we have number of vacant appointed committee positions. 5 or 6 vacancies. If you are interested in serving on a committee – Contact Chris Ray – ask for your name to be put forward. Our college voice will come through many of these committees

5. Pending issues –

- a. Insurance for visiting scholars and faculty committee.
- b. College level appeals process – Dept. Chairs need to send names. This is not grade appeals because University policy covers that. We have to be careful not to violate faculty senate policy or University policy on any appeals process.

Edi –this is in response to interpretation of chair of Ph.D. committees - on candidate exam policy – does that fall under a grade appeal?

Tschumi – this policy was put in place before Ph.D. programs. We may need to create something to make sure that candidacy exam does not fall through the cracks.

Bhattacharyya – get committee together to study, bring it to appropriate Graduate program committee

6. Adjournment – Pres. Pidugu called for motion to adjourn. Jay Sims made the motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Laura Ruhl. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am.

Attendance

Srikanth Pidugu
Andrew Wright
Beth McMillan
Eric Sandgren
Pete Tschumi
Elizabeth Pierce
Gary Anderson
George Tebbetts
Mike Tramel
Lashun Thomas
Philip Williams
Dirk Reiners
Carolina Cruz-Neira
Laura Ruhl
Jeff Connelly

Pat Pellicane
Jim Blacklock
Steve Minsker
Peiyi Tang
Kenji Yoshigoe
Ningning Wu
Jing Zhang
Bruce Bauer
David Luneau
Thomas Wallace
Michael DeAngelis
Rene Shroat-Lewis
Jay Sims
Xian Liu
Cang Ye

Vernard Henley
Abijit Battacharya
Chia-Chu Chiang
Yupo Chan
Mengjun Xie
Mariofanna Milanova
Wenle Zhang
Mamdouh Bakr
Hollis Bray
Jim Carr
Edi Tudoreanu
Nick Jovanovic
Hussain Al-Rizzo