

All Faculty Meeting
April 22, 2011
11:00-12:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. High and Highest Honors
2. Graduation with Distinction
3. Communications with Students in the College
4. Budget and RCM Update
5. Update on New Addition to Weimer Hall
6. Technology Committee and IT/Equipment Purchases
7. UF Spring/Summer Cohort Plan
8. Graduation Ceremony and Reception

High and Highest Honors

Lists provided.

Graduation with Distinction

Treise distributed the list of students graduating with distinction. The motion to approve the list of recommended students was seconded and approved unanimously. **Dean Wright** explained to new faculty members that this distinction is awarded only to master students.

Communications with Students in the College

Dean Wright reported that one of the main issues articulated by Deans Student Advisory Council members was that students believed the College could greatly improve communications with the student body. Dean Wright worked with alumna Cindy Honickman to create a student blog which will be linked to the College website. The blog will be discussed in detail before launch in the fall.

Another suggestion made by Advisory Council students was for the College to provide more seating around the College and, in particular, more electrical outlets to plug in notebook computers. **Wright** considers it extremely important that students can remain in Weimer Hall during the day if they prefer. He hopes to find funds to address this during the summer. **Molleda** proposed that the communications labs be open to students for this purpose and **Wright** concurred that all the labs should be due to ample outlets.

Budget and RCM Updates

Dean Wright reported that there was no hard news regarding the state budget process in Tallahassee. He explained that the UF administrators hope any budget reductions are less than 5%. If so, UF should be able to handle the reductions without call backs from colleges. This is due to planning and tuition differential money. **Wright** also announced that he is planning to have a Budget and Long Range Planning Committee Meeting on Tuesday May, 10th after finding out more details at the Deans and Vice Presidents Meeting that morning. He emphasize that we will be disseminating budget data as we have in previous semesters, but a prolonged illness and staff member leaving UF has overloaded the College business office. That problem is being addressed. **Wright** summarized that the College currently has about and \$8.3 million dollar operating budget, most of which is in salary dollars. Most of the unfilled lines salary funds are used to fund instruction, including adjuncts and graduate students. **Wright** emphasized the urgent need to increase SCH productivity and add distance education programs. The Global Strategic Communications master's specialization in collaboration with The University of Sao Paulo begins online classes in September. Distance programs will bring extend our educational reputation, provide valuable knowledge on a global basis, and bring in revenue essential for faculty development, salary equity raises, special projects and travel.

Update on New Addition to Weimer Hall

Wright announced that the latest draft plan estimated costs are about \$3.6 million. The new plan entails adding 7,000 sq. ft. and renovating existing space, rather than adding at total of 12,000 new sq. ft. as previously discussed.

Grogan added that in this new plan the 2136 and 2138 editing labs would be relocated, along with the student lounge, photojournalism lab and offices for Orange and Blue. She explained that the third floor would consist of offices, work spaces and a mezzanine that will overlook the converged newsroom below. **Wright** noted that anyone moved will ultimately be going to a better space. **Dodd** inquired about whether the offices on the third floor will have adequate soundproofing, adding that one professional media outlet did not account for the noise factor. **Pelfry** asked about the time frame for completion of construction. **Grogan** explained that there was not specific date set. Construction would begin at the end of the summer and continue with heavy activity during fall and spring semesters. Sprinkler installation will be started and completed during Summer 2012.

Technology Committee and IT/Equipment Purchases

Wright reminded faculty members that all major computer and equipment purchase proposals will be reviewed by the Technology Committee when possible for input. The goal is to make certain we make the best possible use of available funds. He added that he expected two proposals to be reviewed next week and that this is another example of how shared governance is invaluable in the College.

UF Spring/Summer Cohort Plan

Wright announced that in 2013, a cohort of 2,000 students will be admitted to UF. This group of new students can enroll for on-campus courses during spring and summer sessions only. They may take online courses, use the library and work in our media properties during fall. The reasoning is that UF enrollment decreases by around 2,000 after December graduation freeing up space during spring and summer semesters. **Walsh Childers** made an observation that an advantage of this concept could be that students can take internships during the fall as opposed to the competitive summer alternative. **Wright** felt that this was a great idea and noted professionals around the nation express the desire for more fall and spring interns.

Weigold inquired about whether or not transfer students would be eligible to which **Wright** responded the original plan was to admit only freshman. **Weigold** speculated that this program could add around 30 students per department a year, which would be manageable especially since there is still time to prepare. **Foley** asked whether or not this change would affect the summer pay scales. **Wright** replied that this might be possible; emphasizing again that increased SCH is essential and brings revenue to the College.

Graduation Ceremony and Reception

Wright explained that the Spring 2011 graduation ceremony will not be precisely as originally anticipated. Marshals are still needed, but the ceremony will be similar to December graduations. Faculty and student awardees will not sit on stage. We also may not announce the College reception. **Wright** said that in the future the reception will be announced by email blasts, Facebook, Twitter and the College website as opposed to the long-time snail mail letter to parents which is no longer effective. Quenta Vettel is coordinating this process.

High and Highest Honors

Faculty members unanimously approved the lists of students recommended for High and Highest Honors provided by Associate Dean Weigold.

Wright closed the meeting first by expressing how much our colleague Lynda Kaid would be missed, noting that she was irreplaceable. Details about a memorial would be announced in the near future. He also mentioned that a Magnolia tree was planted in honor of doctoral student Linda Hallam and announced that the University had agreed to award her the doctoral degree during the summer.

He concluded by thanking all of the faculty and administrators for the tremendous accomplishments throughout the year, noting how much hard work is involved in teaching, research and service. He emphasized all of the honors that our students had received and congratulated to faculty for their dedication and expert mentoring.