

Administrative Council
September 9, 2009
President's Conference Room

Members Present

Mohamed Abdelrahman
Suellen Alfred
Deborah Allen
S. K. Ballal
Robert Bell
Joe Biernacki
Chris Brown
Marc Burnett
Erin Chambers
Mike Cowan
Helen Dainty
Susan Elkins

Mark Groundland
Bobby Hodum (sub. Vanessa Palmer)
David Huddleston
Azurae Johnson
Pat Jordan
Regina Lee
Charlie Macke
Jeffery Marquis
Jack Matson
Nancy Mielke
Sean Ochsenbein
Sally Pardue

Caleb Petty
Randy Raper
Rita Reese
Andrew Smith
Matthew Smith
Mark Stephens
Claire Stinson
Tom Timmerman
Debbie Walker
Mark Wilson
Jeff Young
John Zhu

Members Absent

Jim Baier
Cathy Cunningham
Sheila Green

Glenn James
Mike Nivens
Joseph Ojo

Others Present

Doug Airha0gRLW5Nj/Y5jg5Y,NiLWZjN0j11grLjfHent Clawson
d BoucheAllan Mill

Jim obb9NW,00j/g LW/9,/N1ZgLL/N2/Z12giLWjN0Yj/jgnLWYN/,25Z0gdLWYN/,25Z0gaL1NYY2j1g L

Proceedings

A motion to approve the agenda of September 9, 2009, as distributed was made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Dr. Ballal. Motion APPROVED.

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of April 15, 2009, and Dr. Ballal seconded. Motion APPROVED.

Mr. Burnett, along with members of the Retention Ad Hoc Committee, introduced TTU's Retention Plan initiatives to the Council. Tech plans to follow in the footsteps of other colleges and universities who have in recent years transformed dormitories into living-and-learning units based on older models at places like Yale. All such new-style residential arrangements will try to create smaller groups within the larger university to enhance student-faculty interaction, and to extend learning beyond the classroom. Tech plans to use the term "living-and-learning villages" (or "villages" for short) instead of "dormitories." Each village will bring together 150-300 individuals from the TTU campus community, including on-campus, commuting, and online students, and all will have different themes. Each village will also have a faculty head serving for a three-year renewable term and "fellows," or faculty members who have a special ongoing relationship with the given village. There will be academic and non-academic programs offered within the villages. New Hall South and North (under construction) will be the first two villages introduced to students in Fall 2010.

Dr. Null addressed UNIV 1020 initiatives. There are 103 sections of UNIV 1020 or equivalent courses offered this semester, and 2,273 freshman are enrolled as of September 8. In addition to offering first-year experience courses, Tech now offers two new approaches to learning and faculty-student connections:

1. There is a new learning community in New Hall that pairs Mr. Smith's sections of ENGL 1010 and UNIV 1020 classes; the classes meet in New Hall so the students do not have to leave their residential hall to attend class. There are also Writing Center hours and math tutoring hours scheduled in New Hall for Monday nights.
2. The Retention Ad Hoc Committee has begun a two-year study of the curriculum in the UNIV 1020 sections; half the sections have a social focus and half have an academic focus. Retention levels will be compared in each to see where emphasis should be placed in UNIV 1020 (retention is measured from fall-to-fall of the freshman year).

Mr. Rawls reported that Tech currently has a 89-90% freshman retention rate; this needs to improve. A prime way to increase retention is to increase student contact in the freshmen's spring semester. Among other initiatives, Mr. Rawls mentioned the development of a peer-mentoring program that would continue beyond UNIV 1020; peer mentors would meet their incoming freshmen prior to convocation, develop relationships in the fall and then intentionally continue communications with freshmen in the spring.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Ballal and seconded by Dr. Alfred. The meeting
ADJOURNED at 4:25 p.m.

Terri Taylor, Recorder

Documents on file with minutes:

Retention Plan Initiatives from Ad Hoc Committee
Tobacco-Use Policies