

Deans Council
September 18, 2024

1. **Orientation**

Brittany Beck

- Brittany Beck, Hollie Gammel Smith, Kate Childress and Michara Delaney-Fields discussed their plan to reimagine orientation.
- There will be a one-day orientation, rather than two, with an extended two-day orientation in August. They have already received feedback from various groups. This orientation will be very focused
- Many students are being advised and register for classes before orientation.
- Brittany suggested one large convocation for the first week of class, named “Lumberjack Launch”. She believes this will have better participation if everyone is holding an event at the same time.
- Deans stated all their departments already hold a convocation. They discussed doing this on the same day.
- Dr. Wurtz stated Fine Arts has a very strong convocation with good attendance, which would be difficult to change.
- The deans are open to looking at a college wide convocation. They stressed it is important for students to meet with their department/ program.
- If Convocation dates are known well in advance, Orientation can promote them.
- The Orientation Advisory Council has representatives from each college. Deans can reach out to them or to Brittany.

2. **Provost Remarks**

Lorenzo Smith

- Gina Oglesbee presented data at the last cabinet meeting on number of faculty and staff.
- The report showed the number of faculty has reduced.
- However, it appears the number of staff for the entire university has increased.
- We have asked for this data to be disaggregated, so that we can look at numbers for Academic Affairs. More details to come.
- Dr. Smith reported the first organizational meeting with COMPASSO (Competitive Academic Student Organizations) went well. We are providing \$235,000 for the organizations.
- Dr. Tori Wagner Greene will lead our first annual event in February in the Twilight Ballroom. More details to follow.
- The dean’s presentations to the extended cabinet are scheduled for Monday, December 2 at 10am.
- It will be a round table discussion with handouts. Dr. Smith is not over-prescribing the format, this is up to the deans.

- Each dean will have a total of 15 minutes, including 5 minutes for Q&A.
- These presentations will be complimentary to the strategic plan.
- The main focus will be what your college is doing and your vision for the next three years.
- This will give a good feel for where we are going and what we have planned for research.
- This may include college name changes, programs moving from one college to another, etc.

3. **Non-Tenure Track Titles**

- Due to changes to HOP 02-302 Academic Appointments and Titles, there was a discussion about the new faculty designations; Clinical Instructor has now been changed to Clinical Assistant, Associate, Professor.
- We also have Assistant, Associate, Professor of Practice. The deans asked how are we defining this? Should they have a terminal degree?
- Professor of practice could apply to positions where they are overseeing students, such as social work, teaching, clinical pathology, etc. This would help to differentiate between research and non-research faculty.
- Clinical external licensing is required beyond a degree, and has to be maintained.
- Promotion procedures for non-tenure-track faculty should be controlled by each college.
- Further discussion will be needed.

4. **Dean's Admin Restructures**

Lorenzo Smith

- Dr. Smith met with John Wyatt and Lisa Balty to discuss the deans' admin restructures and we have some guidelines.
- The deans will work with Ginger to get these finalized and we would like to submit before our next dean's council when Gina Oglesbee and John Wyatt will attend to answer questions.
- Please send any questions to Sharon by September 27.

5. **Vacant positions**

Ginger Walker

- The president has requested a weekly report showing all vacancies and will be reviewing how many days vacant, how many days posted, etc.
- Ginger will remove grant positions from the list.
- We have vacant lines with no budget.
- Once we have confirmation that we can get these positions back if they are required in future, we can delete some of those also.
- If we have an active vacancy the budget office wants to know it will be filled by 9/1/25.

- If colleges hire faculty members for less than we have budgeted, they can use the salary savings.
- Ginger explained the cost of benefits is higher now that we are part of the UT System.
- Ginger will be communicating with each dean and providing a list of where their budget and vacancies stand.
- Cloud services will be funded once a contract is in place.

Meeting adjourned 10.29

Attendees: Lorenzo Smith, Marc Guidry, Sharon Brewer, Ginger Walker, Kim Childs, Gary Wurtz, Forrest Lane, Dustin Knepp, Tim Bisping, Hans Williams, Judy Abbott, Brittany Beck, Michara, Delaney-Fields, Hollie Gammel Smith, Kate Childress