

## **Provost Council Meeting Notes**

**October 27, 2023 / 9-11 am**

**Dr. Duffy presented a draft of the new TAMIU Mission Statement. Please see the attached document. Several observations were made:**

- **A bit generic**
- **Adequate from a SACS perspective**
- **Does not require constant updating.**
- **Recommendation to adopt new statement until later next year (2024) so as not to affect our current assessments and SACS preparation.**

### **College of Education - Dean O'Meara**

- **Reported current enrollment rates, diagnosticians, and school counseling numbers are good.**
- **Discussion of carousel of specialization courses, overall good system. However, if a course falls off the schedule or if a student gets out of sync with their cohort, it can cause some complications for students.**
- **Discussion of the large volume of students wanting testing opportunities in Laredo.**
- **Discussion of grants, including a project to increase the number of nationally certified students in South Texas.**

### **Provost San Miguel (on behalf of Dr. Kilburn)**

**Exploring collaborations to address the teaching of dual credit courses, proposal not yet submitted.**

### **Graduate School - Interim Dean Norris (3 handouts)**

- **Good turnout at Graduate School Fair, higher attendance than the year prior, but hoping to continue to increase next year.**
- **Reviewed handouts. Please see the attached docs.**
- **Discussion of complications re: student travel and CONCUR. Graduate School will require students to request pre-approval for travel in writing.**

## University College - Dean Ramirez

University College is working with Bob Wilkerson and will have a SACS Doc by December.

Working on curriculum changes for MDS degree. During the research phase, UC identified problems with other programs' prerequisites and will contact respective Deans regarding these findings.

RE: Reading the Globe - Low participation for the essay contest as competition coincided with midterms (usually ~200 participants, this year ~60). Also, the book was a quick selection that deals with a serious topic and, thus, was a heavy read. UC will reinstate the book selection committee for next year and is looking at methods for selecting faculty to go on the trip.

RE: Advising - Advisors will now be involved in recruitment site visits. This is new. Also, changes in college readiness designation at the school district level coupled with the beneficiaries of the COVID waiver for dual credit may have caused an influx of students with low TSI scores who are facing serious academic challenges. Discussion regarding how to identify and assist these students and define what TAMIU considers "college ready." MDS is being envisioned and developed as a fully online degree.

## University Assessment - Dr. Wilkinson (2 handouts)

SACS paid for a year and a half of participation in a Gates Foundation project that gathers and looks at all of TAMIU's student data, including pathways, transition points, and outcomes. This project is investing in national and multistate data systems that provide readily accessible, disaggregated information in secure and deidentified ways. The long-term goal is to scale up into longitudinal systems that show postsecondary and workforce pathways and outcomes across sectors and states. These systems can help high schools better prepare students for postsecondary success, help college administrators better align program offerings with workforce needs, and help students and families understand the return on their investment in postsecondary education. [project mission information provided on the project website at <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/our-work/programs/us-program/data-strategy>]

The assessment office is learning how to navigate the system and will train others across campus in the future. Please see the attached document

- Presented draft of SACS calendar. Please see the attached document.
- SACS On-site visit March 30 – April 3, 2025. All TAMIU leadership must be on campus during the visit.
- Working with the Office of Public Relations to promote student course evaluations.

#### College of Arts & Sciences – Interim Dean Duffy

- Math program successfully went through review.
- Conscientious prep for ABET visit for Engineering.
- ROTC numbers are up to 18, aiming for 25. Understaffing issue and currently waiting for the appointment of new principal lead. Deans providing guidance.
- Revising 1<sup>st</sup> year writing program, looking for a new director. COAS Chairs discussing core curriculum will coordinate with the University Curriculum Committee. COAS P&T moving along relatively smoothly.

#### College of Nursing & Health Sciences – Dean Torregosa

- Accreditation went well, and prepping for the next 3-year visit,
- 11 graduated, 6 took Boards, and all passed.
- Tracking retention rates, high attrition rate for 1<sup>st</sup> year (fail 2 courses and student is out of program). Identified low Reading levels (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade). Adopted a basic reading course (not marketed as remedial) that brought students up to a 12th-grade reading level. Spring 2023, the first group to go through the program. Retention went from 54% to 73%. This self-paced reading course has been incorporated into the Nursing curriculum.

#### A.R. Sanchez School of Business

Retreat coming up, no agenda/theme yet.

#### Killam Library – Interim Director Dalton (1 Handout)

- OER Grant update – please encourage any faculty currently using or planning to use OER in their courses to apply for funds. Please see the attached document.
- JoVE database added to Killam Library resources. JoVE publishes peer-reviewed scientific video protocols to accelerate biological, medical, chemical, and physical research.

- **Endnote citation tool is back.**
- **MLA Handbook online has been added.**
- **Lexis Nexis database is back.**
- **Cabell's Journalytics and Predatory Reports has been added.**