

**Academic Deans' Retreat  
August 21, 2006**

Attending: B. Amos, T. Bankston, R. Beck, G. Blount, D. Coers, C. Diminnie,  
K. Lambert and J. Miazga

New Business

1. Topic: House Bill 1

**College credit program** requirements at the high school level may increase AP and IB course transfer, thereby impacting semester credit hour production. It would be preferable to have these students involved in dual credit at ASU and the timing is right as the expansion of dual offerings remains a concern of SAISD. A few of the associated challenges include:

- Charging only Tuition A to be more competitive
- Marketing courses that are more rigorous
- Timing course offerings to match high school bell schedules

The first step will be to contact area superintendents to define our potential market.

Responsible Party: John Miazga, Richard Beck and Fred Dietz

The **Texas Governor's School Program** enables institutions of higher education to develop three-week summer residential programs in math, science, humanities, leadership, and public policy for high-achieving high school students. A concern was mentioned with respect to program sustainability amidst a fixed budget. The THECB will be contacted for additional information.

Responsible Party: Kevin Lambert

The emphasis on **College Readiness Programs** brings with it new opportunities for the development of contractual relationships between secondary and higher education agencies. Additional information will be secured from the TEA.

Responsible Party: John Miazga

The **Course Redesign Project** provides for a revision of one or more courses from no more than 25 entry-level lower division academic courses. This is an area where it would be advantageous to be one of the chosen rather than one of those who are told what to teach. College Algebra was of particular interest and more information will be secured from the system office.

Responsible Party: Grady Blount and Don Coers

2. Topic: Swirling

ASU's student population is increasingly prone to 'swirling' (achieving a higher education degree via enrollment at two or more institutions, either simultaneously or consecutively). The Council reviewed associated data, including increases in transcript requests and increases in transferred semester credit hours from area community colleges. It seems reasonable that this summer's decline in student

enrollment is due in part to the swirling phenomenon. The Council developed the following questions for further consideration.

- How much of an ASU experience have our students had?
  - What can we do to become more swirling friendly with respect to articulation and financial aid?
  - How much formula money are we generating in lower division courses and what are the implications of managed swirling?
  - Do we track how transcripts will be used via the transcript request form?
- Responsible Party: Richard Beck and Fred Dietz

### 3. Topic: Curriculum

**Advanced level courses** of low enrollment are of increasing concern.

Institutionally, we cannot afford to offer these courses. Student expectations need to be modified to take courses at a time when they are offered or their degree plans need to be modified appropriately. The deans are to review traditional low-performing courses in their area and develop rotational schedules that would ensure sufficient enrollment.

Responsible Party: Academic Deans

Given the consequences of student swirling, **distance education courses** that are offered during the summer may be particularly appropriate. Faculty incentives were discussed including the awarding of a bonus the first time a course is taught online rather than the traditional course development bonus. ASU could also consider a capstone requirement that includes distance education, preferably in-house. An ad hoc committee will be formed to consider associated questions further. The proposed membership included Casey Jones (LFA), Karl Havlak (SCI), Carl Martin (IT), Jeff Schonberg (LFA), Wrennah Gabbert (SCI), and Grady Blount (SCI) as chair.

Responsible Party: Don Coers

We are among the most traditional of institutions with respect to the development and offering of **evening and weekend programs**. Areas of potential development include a program that would allow paraprofessionals to complete their degree and become teachers. Said program would be eligible for tuition waivers from the State. Also, we should consider a program that would allow those pursuing post-baccalaureate study to become teachers. This program would be attainable if appropriate leveling courses were available online.

Responsible Party: John Miazga