

Council of Chairs
Sept. 6, 2016

Present: Narda Porter, Amelia Harris, Jeff Cantrell, Robin Benke, Bryan Hoyt, Margie Tucker, Jacob Somervell, Frank Frey, Sandy Huguenin, John Mark Adrian, Cathie Collins, Michael McNulty, Tom Costa, Emily Dotson

Absent: Amy Clark

Mr. Huguenin noted that state revenues are lower than projected, and so far higher education is exempted from the 5 percent budget cut faced by other state agencies.

He is still accepting requests for space in Wyllie Hall (the former library); let him know how much space your department or program would like to have and how it would be used. The same is true of Darden Hall; some space will be available when people move to Wyllie.

He and Don Sharitt had breakfast this morning with Wise County Schools administrators to discuss a joint grant proposal. The SCHEV Affordable Pathways Partnership Grant would begin next January and last 18 months; it is not renewable. The focus is on retention.

Narda Porter reminded the group they had been invited to a Box file she created to view updates on IB/Cambridge/CLEP/AP scores and justification mandated recently by the legislature. Only tests that give credit for classes we offer must be evaluated. She would like to have this completed before Christmas break.

Jenzabar will experience a major system upgrade during the last week of September. Ms. Porter said several changes should make it easier for faculty to advise students and retrieve information. She gave the Chairs a list of changes to discuss with department faculty.

Cathie Collins cautioned everyone to carefully review their telephone bills. A nursing faculty member recently discovered a call had been made from her office on a Saturday when no one should have been there.

Emily Dotson, director of Wise Writes, said the faculty have been very receptive to the program and she is booked solid this month. In mid-October she will offer workshops to teach participants how to develop courses to require more writing, how to grade students' writing, and grade-norming papers.

She said the Writing Center will soon hire two tutors majoring in other disciplines besides English. Last week tutors completed a grammar boot camp and a workshop that covered plagiarism and writing in different disciplines. They will complete another five hours of training and an additional grammar boot camp. Ms. Dotson will be available to meet with students in the Writing Center on Friday mornings, and will schedule sessions with classes and departments.

Tom Costa is heading a committee to review how the scheduling of classes, convocation blocks, and exams are handled. He invited each department to send a representative. He also invited the

Department Chairs or their designee to attend a meeting of the Student Athlete Advisory Council for pizza and informal discussion. The SAAC meets once a month on Mondays at 7 p.m., they would be willing to schedule a special meeting with department representatives and could meet as early as 6 p.m.

Margie Tucker announced the dates of upcoming faculty socials: Sept. 23 and Oct. 21. Invitations will be sent for each one. A third gathering will be scheduled in December.

The Sept. 20 meeting of the Council of Chairs is canceled.