

Council of Chairs
March 7, 2017

Present: Amy Clark, Bryan Hoyt, Robin Benke, Narda Porter, Tom Costa, Michael McNulty, Sandy Huguenin, Margie Tucker, John Mark Adrian, Jeff Cantrell, Jacob Somervell, Frank Frey

Absent: Cathy Collins

Mr. Costa said he and Kendall Rainey have created a draft of a handbook with guidelines for speaking with parents of student athletes. The guide details policies and lists resources. It is currently under review by administrators.

Mr. Costa is in the process of emailing faculty regarding the football players; the coaches would like to know about their academic progress as a very low percentage turned in mid-term grades. It was noted that not all faculty give mid-term exams, and many have only had one exam by that time. Students should be encouraged to speak with their professors any time they would like to know how they're doing in a class. Ms. Porter offered to keep the portal open longer for reporting mid-term grades. The early-alert process is another way to measure students' progress and catch problems early. Several faculty have reported more issues with attendance this semester, especially with freshmen.

Mr. Huguenin and Ms. Porter discussed a draft of the academic calendar through 2030. It has been reviewed by the chancellor and will now go before the Senior Staff. Other groups who will be affected, such as athletics and housing, will also be consulted before changes can be made. The earliest that a change could be made is Fall 2018. Changes under consideration include the start dates of the fall and spring semesters and the dates of semester breaks.

Mr. Somervell asked about after-hours access to academic buildings, and was told there is an approval form students can carry that will allow them to remain in buildings when campus police lock them for the night. The form explains the rules, such as not propping doors open or giving access to unauthorized persons.

Questions were raised concerning criteria for the Darden Society; the discussion was tabled until Amelia Harris, advisor to the Darden Society, could be present.