

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
May 21, 2021

Members Present: Trish DiLullo, Pamela Keller, Cynthia Lovelace, Jackie Smith, Timothy Thornton, Rita Wallace, Jennifer Williams

Not Present: Sandra Sims deGraffenried, Kim LaFavor, Dus Rogers, Julia Roth, John Wilson

Guests:

Stephen Spencer, Lee Vartanian, Jim Kerner, David Wilson, Morgan Stanford, Sara Cline, Shannon Pittman, Belinda Krigel, Robin Moore - recorder

Meeting called to order at 1:03

SACS update report

New programs

MFA – this will complete the fine arts program. Unique in that students can choose if they want to be here in person or choose low residency. There is also component of collaboration experiential learning and community involvement. It is also unique in that it will be the first terminal degree at Athens State University.

Certificates

- Forensic Accounting – allows students to sit for the Tier 2 CPA exam instead of only Tier 1. Advanced Manufacturing – we looked at what do employers need right now? This certificate will aid students in moving up into management and obtain more responsibilities.
- Graduate Certificates in Strategic Business Analytics and Strategic Leadership – helps employees who need to gain an additional skillset without a having to take irrelevant courses or work towards a degree.
- Pre-health – Designed to aid students wanting to go into a professional program such as medical school or veterinary school. Will aid in advising these students. They will be assigned an advisor specific to pre health to help out rather than a general advisor.

NSF STEM Grant – This will provide scholarships to students in a STEM field for students in financial need and will also provide support programming to retain students to get them through to degree. First ASU NSF grant.

Faculty Training – ACUE – We used CARES money to purchase modules. ACUE provides training and support to faculty to help with pivot during the pandemic. Effective online teaching is the module we chose and faculty have to complete 4 different microcourses to get certified. Had 49 faculty take at least one course. Think that we will have 44 complete the entire certification See printout. 12 from COE, 15 from COAS, 17 from COB so far. Each course is broken up into 6-7 modules that take 2-3 hours each overall about 84 hours to complete certification. We will continue with more training modules when we get more CARES money. Facilitated by faculty here.

New Faculty for Fall 2021

Michael Behring – Epidemiology – expanding health sciences and he will help public health.

Jing Chen – finishing Ph.D. this semester in computer science.

Donna Pitts – Currently in Special Ed at Alabama A and M. She is going to help develop a master's degree program proposal in special ed during the summer then assume full time responsibilities in the fall.

RN to BSN – Program is coming in fall and students will have to have a current RN license to participate. Will do clinicals as part of their current employment and additional coursework in managerial areas and public health areas at Athens State. We are one of the only baccalaureate schools around that does not have an RN to BSN program. Rita Wallace recommends that we begin to focus on providing the next step as well – a nurse practitioner degree. It was reported that there is a goal in Alabama for 80% of RN's to have BSNs. Currently there is only between 40-43%. This program will support the state in achieving that goal. We hope the new nursing faculty member will begin to build strong relationships with students' employers and get them to support our efforts.

Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, new Provost starts June 1.

Dean Spencer thanked Jackie Smith for her outstanding leadership during the transition.

Adjourned at 1:47 p.m.