

Date: 11-14-14

Meeting of Academic Senate Council with Chancellor Rahn and Provost Heard

Re: eVersity initiative of the University of Arkansas System and Impact on UAMS

Council Members Present: Howard Hendrickson, Danny Bercher, Philip Breen, Dana Gaddy, Ilias Kavouras, Lee Ann Macmillan-Crow, Heather Neal-Rice, Laura Smith-Olinde, Gunnar Boysen, Steve Post, Jonathan McDougal (ASG President).

Others present: Dan Rahn, Jeanne Heard.

Howard Hendrickson provided background on his eVersity-related discussions with other system school faculty senate presidents

Dan Rahn provided the following comments

- eVersity has been part of the UA System strategic plan since Dr. Bobbitt hired
- Goal--provide as many access point as possible to Arkansans, particularly non-traditional students
- Intent—provide the opportunity for the state of Arkansas to capture Arkansas students within the public higher education system (thousands of Arkansans are taking courses/programs at more expensive for-profit higher education institutions. Goal is to double number of degree holders within 10 years. Not physically/fiscally possible within 10 years on existing campuses.
- For UAMS--little to no duplication with UAMS programming, so far as is known
  - will provide a larger pool of applicants for some UAMS programs
  - Dr. Rahn thinks this will complement, not compete with, UAMS
- Fiscally --~\$2.5 M needed in start-up funding until tuition dollars flow
  - System office gets no appropriation from the state; decided to BORROW funds from all campuses (reserves) and will repay at 1.75% interest
  - UAMS has \$200 M in reserves with a \$40 M cash flow
  - the \$50,000/month cost of this loan will not be felt at UAMS

Drs. Rahn and Heard discussed ways in which UAMS might leverage eVersity to help us carry out our mission and suggested this could be a productive approach for faculty toward eVersity

Steve Post commented that in a meeting at the UA System office, President Bobbitt and Dr. Moore made clear the focus of eVersity is toward non-traditional students and that program choices would be driven by Arkansas' workforce needs

Dr. Heard explained the UA System office has issued three requests thus far

1. Instructional design (ID) assistance; Dr. Heard indicated UAMS cannot spare and ID people at this time.
2. A faculty representative to the eVersity Governance Council
3. Interested faculty to offer content and help build courses.

The representative to the Governance Council will receive \$2000 annually and this committee will cease to exist once the Higher Learning Commission packet is submitted (2-3 years).

The Governance Council will write policies/procedures and preparing application for accreditation.

All faculty are welcome to work on course building for eVersity and will be remunerated; this work is considered outside employment.

Howard Hendrickson will invite Michael Moore UASystem Vice President for Academic Affairs to the meeting of the Academic Senate scheduled for Monday November 17 at 4 pm.

Respectively submitted by Laura Smith-Olinde and Dana Gaddy.