



## Academic, Governance, and Strategic Planning Council Recap

CHEC 407 February 20, 2025

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**Attendees:** Dr. Neil Matkin, Dr. Bill King, Melissa Irby, Dr. Abe Johnson, Dr. Jay Corwin, Monica Velazquez, Mary McClure, Dr. Wendy Commons, Jillian Deshazo, Dr. Kerry Loinette, Tricia Murray, Dr. Rebecca Orr, Dr. Krystal Humphreys, Dr. Sukanya Subramanian, Laura Varnell (note taker)

**Absent:** Ali Subhani

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### Action Items

- 1) Barnes & Noble (B&N) First Day Complete Proposal – Melissa Irby
  - a. Handout of the proposal reviewed:
    - i. Students will be trained in how to opt out
    - ii. Participation is all or nothing (global?) – cannot choose to apply to individual courses. Jay Corwin added that the option to opt out at the program level is also being considered.
    - iii. Textbook still optioned for purchase at end of course
    - iv. Applied as textbook charge, not included in tuition
    - v. College does receive incentives
    - vi. B&N is proposing a price of \$22/credit hour, willing to drop to \$20/credit hour. Full-time student fee would be \$240, lower than current expenses.
  - b. Concern raised regarding the use of the verbiage “complete”. Students could incorrectly assume they won’t need to make supplemental purchases not included in the kit (i.e., goggles, calculators, uniforms, etc.).
  - c. Question on clarification of delivery timeline. Need more details to ensure delivery before day one of class.
  - d. Clarity is requested on who will be responsible for back-end access (syllabi, canvas course shells, etc). Dr. Matkin feels this is crucial.
  - e. Dr. Matkin wants to be certain contract specifics are understood.

**Next steps: Must be approved in next 4-6 weeks to be ready for Fall 2025.**

### Discussion Items

- 1) Faculty Rank Update/Policy Changes for Second Reading:
  - f. Goal is to have the first draft of the master teacher program ready for Dr. Matkin’s review in time to run the program over the summer of 2025.

- g. Proposed policy changes regarding the faculty rank process were reviewed as part of a second reading (handouts provided).
- h. Faculty rank process rollout may not be fully completed for all faculty until possibly two years/cycles have passed.

**Next Steps: The deadline for the preliminary letter of intent to faculty is March 31.**

2) Early Alert Referral System (EARS):

- a. The program goal is to trigger intervention for struggling students.
- b. Form has been streamlined in response to faculty feedback, but looking for input on other outstanding issues with the process, etc.
- c. Issues raised included:
  - i. Timeline – much too lengthy. Can take weeks to resolve
  - ii. Request to see an assessment of the success of the program. The program was assessed the first 3 semesters prior to Dr. Horstman taking over.
    - 1. Dr. Orr entered 17 students last fall; 15 withdrew or failed. I would appreciate evidence of results or receipt of feedback to remain motivated to utilize the program.

**Next Steps: Dr. Matkin requested more information on EARS and will have follow-up questions. (Dr. Corwin and Dr. Jeremy Anderson?)**

3) Academic Dishonesty Update (handouts provided):

- a. Handouts were pulled from a presentation on Honorlock given by Thomas Eimermacher (faculty).
- b. Overall feeling among faculty is that cheating is out of control and becoming normalized.
- c. Members of the Discipline Appeals Committee feel “serial cheating” is not being taken seriously.
- d. Balance between punitive and restorative is needed.
- e. Dr. Matkin supports the idea of an Honor Contract for students and faculty. Also supported in the meeting by Dr. Subramanian and Prof. DeShazo.
- f. Dr. Matkin feels we need a zero-tolerance policy while also considering first-time students.
- g. Criteria to consider:
  - i. Shortening timeline, lack of student honor code, ensuring DOS serves as an independent adjudicator and decision-maker, faculty determine academic penalties based on DOS decision, faculty need to enforce expectations, necessary consequences, and universal methodology.

- h. Suggestion made to set expectations during orientation for incoming students (orientation being redesigned as part of QEP).

**Next Steps: Per Dr. Johnson – a group is being formed to re-examine Honorlock and testing practices. He will be speaking to Faculty Council.**

- 4) College's Stance on Use of Artificial Intelligence:
  - a. *"In the future, AI will not replace people, but people that use AI will replace people that don't."* ~quote heard by Dr. Orr at conference
  - b. COAID focuses on student AI use; what is acceptable for faculty?
  - c. Clarification is needed from an operation viewpoint – use in appraisals, student feedback, etc.
  - d. Per Dr. Johnson – there is a major challenge in adopting any AI platform under our public requirements without a policy in place.

**Next Steps: Dr. Johnson volunteered to start the process of determining a committee and next steps.**

**Feedback Items – None presented**

### **Information Items**

- 1) Master Teacher Certification Draft Proposal
  - a. Dr. Johnson supports the 1-year duration. Goal is to have classes start this summer (2025)
- 2) Late Registration Proposal Update
  - a. Follow-up item from previous AGS meeting
  - b. Two proposals were developed; option B was selected by provosts/deans/faculty council.
  - c. Registration ends Friday before the semester begins
  - d. Target implementation is summer to allow testing on smaller pool.

**Next Steps: Dr. Corwin will update AGS on the nuances of utilizing Workday, the effect of weekend classes, etc. Melissa Irby requests that student financials be included in the evaluation.**

- 3) Study Grant
  - a. Handout of new guidelines provided and reviewed.

- b. Piloted this year. Only two (2) applied, both recommended and awaiting approval from the district president.
  - c. More revisions have since been made i.e. timeline updated, number of awards limited.
  - d. Dr. Matkin is supportive of increasing the number of recipients.
  - e. Dr. Johnson suggested having two (2) cohorts, spring and fall.
- 4) 2026-2027 Academic Calendar
  - a. Going to Board of Trustees in March.
  - b. ISDs are aligning, P-12 working on 2-year dual credit schedules
- 5) May Graduation Update
  - a. Handout with details provided and reviewed
- 6) Reaffirmation of Accreditation with SACSCOC/QEP Update
  - a. Any changes made by faculty to core objectives must be tied back to data for last three (3) years.
  - b. All feedback from the accreditation visit are posted on CougarWeb.
  - c. Hiring for the SACSCOC position.
  - d. QEP response due March 3.
  - e. QEP revising 1300 course, orientation, EARS
  - f. June board meeting will review QEP

#### **Round Robin**

- Handouts/documents will be sent with agenda for upcoming meetings.
- Next meeting will be held March 13, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 5:07pm