MEETING OF THE FACULTY OF THE SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
JANUARY 23, 2012
Main 212

Dean Paul Woodruff convened the second annual meeting of the School of Undergraduate Studies. He began by reviewing the minutes of the February 14, 2011 meeting. The main agenda item was the annual report of the state of the school. The report provided basic information about the structure and operation of the school and a brief description of its various programs. This information can be found in the summary handout provided to the meeting attendees (see below).

Dean Woodruff then asked if there were questions from the floor.

Janet Staiger professor of RTF and women's and gender studies asked a question relating to an article from that morning's *Daily Texan*: Is the DemTex program a part of UGS?

Dean Woodruff responded that DemTex is a project developed four to five years ago by the Senate of College Councils. He explained that the program offers student organized courses that are taken on a no-credit basis. The courses are offered with UGS course numbers, but DemTex is considered a SCC project.

Michael Domjan professor of psychology asked about the ethics flag requirement-how it will be instituted and seat counts ensured.

Dean Woodruff answered that he foresees that the independent inquiry flag and the ethics and leadership flag will be the hardest to implement. Due to accreditation requirements, the professional schools already have ethics courses built into their curricula. For the larger colleges like liberal arts and natural sciences, the ethics flag committee is trying to be inventive in creating courses and drawing faculty to teach those courses that can serve the diverse groups of students in those colleges. One way of approaching this would be to create ethics requirements through individual departments so that the course can be related to the student's major/career choice.

Associate Dean Larry Abraham added that UGS has seen great success with department and discipline specific flag requirements. This model ensures that students have most flag content taught with a major-specific focus, making them well prepared in their field and/or career of choice.

Janet Staiger commented that she was happy to hear that 93% of UGS students stay in the major they are advised into by the Center for Strategic Advising. She asked how UGS maintains the high numbers given the cascaded students who don't make it into their first of second major of choice.

Dean Woodruff acknowledged that the students who fall into this area represent a small number, but they are at the greatest retention risk. He provided anecdotal evidence that indicated that the University Lecture Series and strategic advising have been instrumental in introducing students to majors and colleges they might not have ever chosen or considered. Strong advising and helping students set realistic expectations about getting into their first choice major will help reduce the loss of these cascaded students.

Hearing no additional questions, Dean Woodruff adjourned the meeting.