

A&SPIRE YEAR THREE (2016-2017)

Theme 4

INVESTING IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES



AOD 1 – Space Plan for Health Sciences

Year 3 Accomplishments

- The College of Arts & Sciences continued to exercise stewardship in allocating space for research laboratories and faculty offices. For some incoming faculty, we were able to assign laboratory space that required only renovation rather than the more expensive option of finishing shell space. In some cases, we were able to allocate fewer modules of lab space than the original BearQuests requested. On occasion, we were able to share special use facilities rather than duplicating a facility for a new faculty member. Lab space of some research-inactive faculty was also reassigned.
- Biology has also conducted a study of space allocation in light of current and anticipated demands (Report titled: *Meeting Demand with Excellence in Undergraduate BIO Lab*)

Courses, June 2017) as the department serves not only its majors, but majors from across the university (e.g., nursing, in particular).

Year 4 Goal

- Identify research laboratories located in high-service areas of the Baylor Sciences Building (e.g. high HVAC), but that do not require such services, and create a plan that would move those labs to the BSB hub, freeing space in the research wings for new faculty whose research requires high-end services. This effort will also examine the possibility of converting hub shell space presently designated for teaching into research laboratories to support low-services research. Biology is readying the herbarium for probable transfer to the Mayborn Museum Complex, thereby releasing three modules of high-services research space in the second floor, A-wing of the BSB. The associate dean for research and graduate education, Dr. Kevin Chambliss, and BSB facilities director Dr. Craig Moehnke will develop this space plan in the coming year, to include the location and potential expansion of research centers.

AOD 2 – Task Force for Administrative Structure of Health Sciences

Year 3 Accomplishment

- Upon the recommendation of a faculty committee and subsequent support by the A&S chairs, Dean Nordt (with provost approval) authorized an internal search for an associate dean of research and graduate education. The position is charged with promoting research collaborations both within the College and in collaboration with other schools and colleges, both on and beyond campus. This position serves faculty and graduate research across all disciplines in the College. Our colleague, Dr. Kevin Chambliss, began as associate dean in January 2017.

Year 4 Goal

- The Office of Prehealth Studies (OPS) will form a committee to assess best management and leadership practices to become a goal in year 4 (2017-2018) of the implementation of *A&Spire*. This should be a subcommittee operating under the direction of the Arts & Sciences Enrollment Council and will be appointed by the dean. The charge of the subcommittee is to produce a recommendation to the Enrollment Council by August 2018.

AOD 3 – Achieving More Favorable Student-to-Faculty Ratios in the Sciences

Year 3 Accomplishment

- See Theme 2.

AOD 4 – Creating a Faculty Structure for Clinical, Research, Joint Appointments

Year 3 Accomplishment

- The number of Arts & Sciences departments and programs developing guidelines for clinical faculty is increasing. Provost-approved guidelines are now in place for Medical Humanities, Psychology and Neuroscience and Geosciences. (In Geosciences, these faculty are referred to as “professional practice faculty” rather than as clinical faculty). Other departments are encouraged to develop clinical faculty guidelines as appropriate for their disciplines and as might be helpful in advancing curricular and research goals in their departments. The Provost’s Office is currently developing guidelines for appointment of research faculty and for faculty having affiliations in departments beyond their home departments.

Year 4 Goal

- The Office of Sponsored Programs recommends expanding the clinical faculty protocols to develop a more formal structure of recognition and compensation for auxiliary faculty who support our internship and clinical outreach programs in the 2017-2018 academic year. The dean will appoint Associate Dean Kenneth Wilkins to this task.

AOD 5 – Enrollment Management for the Health Sciences

Year 4 Accomplishments

- The Science Research Fellows major has received all necessary university approvals and has accepted its inaugural class, matriculating in fall 2017. Dean Nordt appointed Dr. Rizalia Klausmeyer as director, complementing her continuing role as associate director in the Office of Prehealth Studies (OPS).
- The OPS, working with Dr. Lynn Wisely, implemented the premedicine, predentistry and preveterinary medicine (PMDV) designation policy beginning in January 2017.
- The OPS also reorganized the B2B selection process to allow more high ability applicants to participate in what is known as the B2B Interview Day.
- Student Ambassadors (17 selected high-ability undergraduates in Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry and Psychology and Neuroscience) helped with the recruitment of prospective science/prehealth majors, and provided peer mentorship to assist with retention and success within the major.
- Efforts are being sustained to recruit premed students into humanities and social sciences departments. These include: (1) development of an interdisciplinary medical ethics minor, (2) premed tracks in the Humanities Freshman Orientation Sessions, (3) brochures advertising alternate paths to medical goals (e.g. sociology and health), and (4) perhaps most significantly, should the set of recommendations on a new core

curriculum in A&S be approved with a reduction in the number of hours to 49/50, premed students will more easily be able to major in humanities and social sciences majors.

- The Arts & Sciences Transfer Credit Policy (approved in 2016 but delayed by the provost for further study) was given the green light and will be implemented beginning August 2018. This policy provides benchmark indicators (e.g. GPA) for transfer students seeking to major in the oversubscribed departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Biology, Psychology and Neuroscience and the medical humanities program.
- The University Course Repeat Policy, effective August 2017, will limit the number of times a student might repeat a course. This will help by lessening demand on taxed science departments in Arts & Sciences, but also by increasing migration to better-fit majors more quickly.
- With the implementation of SSC (Student Success Collaborative), advisers, effective fall 2017, are better able to monitor the PMDV (premedical, predentistry and preveterinary medicine) flag on student files for accuracy, thus enabling better management in the health sciences.
- Dr. Klausmeyer has met her recruitment goals of 10 Science Research Fellow (SRF) students who will start in the fall 2017 semester. She has also developed and attained the curricular approval for the two freshman SRF courses that are critical for the success of the program. The SRF program inaugurates its first class in fall 2017 and everything looks to be on track with the goals set forth in *A&Spire*.

Year 4 Goal

- **This AOD is completed.**

AOD 6 – Building Collaborations Across School Boundaries/Medical Schools

Year 3 Accomplishments

- Discussion continues among members of the Bioinformatics group (in the School of Engineering and Computer Science), members of various Arts & Sciences departments (Biology, Environmental Science, Mathematics, Statistical Science, Sociology), members of the Hankamer School of Business (Management Information Systems), and the corresponding deans about the possibility of developing a center for informatics or data science.
- In its search for a new chair, the Department of Physics is committed to building an emphasis in materials science. This will be a collaborative effort with the School of Engineering and Computer Science. A program proposal, with financial *pro forma*, is being developed.

- A possible collaboration between the A&S program in Environmental Health Science and the Department of Anthropology with the Robbins College of Human and Health Sciences (Department of HHPR) is under discussion with regard to a Master of Public Health degree.
- The Department of Biology continues its conversation with the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine to develop a 4+1 program in tropical disease biology. Undergraduate students would earn a B.S. degree in biology, following the concentration in tropical disease biology, from Baylor in Waco, then matriculate into the NSTM graduate program in which they would earn a M.S. degree from BCM.

Year 4 Goals

- Complete and submit proposal on data informatics and cybersecurity to the Provost's Office.
- Make significant progress towards a Master of Public Health with an emphasis on global and environmental health.
- Make significant progress towards a 4+1 dual degree between the Department of Biology and the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine.
- Advance considerations for a Center for Cancer Research/Drug Discover with other academic units and possibly Baylor Scott & White Health.
- Dr. Blake Burleson, with Dr. Rich Sanker and Dr. Lynn Wisely, will work with the Provost's Office on plans to provide better understanding of the role of the Office of Prehealth Studies and academic units outside of A&S (especially Robbins College and the Louise Herrington School of Nursing). Special attention will be focused on the PMDV (premedical, predentistry and preveterinary medicine) population in terms of recruitment, academic fit, academic advisement, professional guidance, internships and placement into graduate schools.