

**Academic Innovation Center (AIC) Council**  
**End of Year Report**  
**Fall 2019 – Spring 2020**

Reported submitted by Todd Murphy (AIC Council chair)

AIC Council Members: *Eugenie Ardoin, Shannon Banks, Mckay Bonner, Candace Gandy, Leigh Hersey, Todd Murphy, Heather Pilcher, Tarriek Rideaux, Will Rogers, Samuel Shannon, Rebecca Yantis, Michelle Zagar*

The AIC Council officially met 4 times over the academic year. It should be noted that most of the AIC initiatives for the Spring 2020 semester were halted due to the global crisis associated with COVID-19. The AIC Council officially took over scheduling for University Week starting Fall 2019. Much of the council's effort this year (including Summer 2019) were spent planning and scheduling the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 University Week. The physical AIC space in Walker 1-137 continues to be a popular meeting location on campus, hosting 46 individual events or meetings during the academic year (as of 1 April 2020). A brief year in review follows below.

- The council planned the Fall 2019 University Week schedule in conjunction with other university offices. Much of this work was done during Summer 2019. During University Week, the council tracked attendance at the sessions and surveyed attendees about the sessions they attended. The sessions were rated positively by those in attendance. The full Fall 2019 University Week schedule is available at the link below:  
<https://www.ulm.edu/aic/documents/fall2019universityweek.pdf>
- Similarly, much of the Fall 2019 semester was focused on planning the Spring 2020 University Week. During University Week, the council tracked attendance and surveyed attendees about the sessions they attended. The council was excited to host Dr. Nicole Robinson for a session on diversity and inclusion. The full Spring 2020 University Week schedule is available at the link below:  
<https://www.ulm.edu/aic/documents/spring2020universityweek.pdf>
- During the Fall 2019 semester, a large focus of the AIC Council was on the AIC Awards. In an effort to promote virtual reality (VR) and the VR laboratory space, the council suggested AIC Award applications have a VR focus. The AIC Council reviewed 12 applications for a total funding request of \$43,156.15. Four applications were funded for an award total of \$15,834.95 and an average award of \$3,959. Three of the four funded applications had a VR focus.
- In conjunction with the Graduate School and Dr. Elizabeth Oldfather, the AIC continued to host ULM Writes. ULM Writes was established last academic year and it features a series of days in the AIC that follows specific structured writing time for faculty in a supportive writing environment.
- The AIC Council established a faculty book club, initially limited to 20 participants. The book club began meeting during the Spring 2020 semester to discuss Josh Eyer's book "How Humans Learn: The Science and Stories Behind Effective College Teaching". We hope to be able to invite Josh Eyer to campus to give a seminar on this topic in the future.

- Prior to the global crisis associated with COVID-19, the AIC Council was working with Ms. Mallory and Dr. Anne Case Hanks on hosting a panel discussion or workshop on developing discipline-specific critical thinking application questions. This workshop would have helped to extend the current progress in Biology associated with the QEP to other disciplines on campus. We hope to offer such a workshop during next Fall semester, or perhaps it could be redeveloped to offer in a remote format.

Dr. Todd Murphy is scheduled to rotate as chair of the AIC Council at the conclusion of this academic year and Dr. Tarriek Rideaux is currently set to become the new chair.