

Deans Council Minutes
April 6, 2015
1:30 PM
President's Office Conference Room, Lee Hall

In attendance: Jerry Gilbert (chair), Richard Blackbourn, Lori Bruce, Tim Chamblee, Frances Coleman, Cody Coyne, John Dickerson, Greg Dunaway, Richard Meiring (for Kent Hoblet), Julia Hodges, Ian Munn and Scott Willard (for George Hopper), Jason Keith, Joan Lucas, Sharon Oswald, Allison Pearson, Mike Rackley, Peter Ryan, Chris Snyder, Jim West.

Others present: Teresa Gammill, Caroline Hearnberger, Rodney Pearson, Jon Rezek, Judy Spencer, Steve Taylor.

Minutes taken by: Martha Thomas.

1. Upon a motion by Frances Coleman and second by Greg Dunaway, the minutes of the March 2, 2015, meeting were approved.
2. Announcements:
 - a. Jerry Gilbert stated the enrollment for the fall is looking strong with an anticipated growth by about 300 students.
 - b. Dr. Gilbert stated that classroom space may be tight during the 2015-16 academic year with the new classroom building scheduled to be open in the fall of 2016. Dr. Gilbert discussed the use of residence halls during the summer and that the new residence halls will provide additional flexibility for these uses.
 - c. Dr. Gilbert encouraged the Deans Council to visit the Kinsey Collection, a preeminent collection of African art and artifacts, housed temporarily in the Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library. Dr. Gilbert stated that MSU is honored to have this prestigious collection in the Library.
 - d. Dr. Gilbert announced that he had sent a letter to Faculty Senate asking that they form a committee to look at the possibility of expanding tenure to include faculty funded 100% Extension or MAFES. The committee will conduct sessions throughout the next year to discuss the topic. Dr. Gilbert stated that a faculty member with 20% or more of E&G funding can be tenure-track.
 - e. Dr. Gilbert gave an update on the Vice President for Student Affairs search. Dr. Dunaway has served on the search committee as a representative of the Deans Council. The committee conducted off-site interviews in New Orleans with nine candidates and selected four to bring to campus for interviews. Dr. Gilbert distributed a schedule of the deans' interview times with the candidates and the open forums and encouraged attendance.
3. International Student/Scholar Compliance Fee Policy:
 - a. Jon Rezek discussed the requested change of the policy, stating that it had not been updated since the International Institute had been created. Recommended changes include a clarification regarding the fee which provides services to international students and scholars. The amount of the fee has not changed since it was implemented.
 - b. Dr. Rezek stated that this would apply to about 80 international scholars across campus.
 - c. Dr. Gilbert stated that this is a policy not typically approved by the Deans Council but that he wanted the Deans Council to have the opportunity to comment about the proposed change.
 - d. Sharon Oswald asked who would pay the scholars' fees. Dr. Rezek stated that he proposes that the department pay the fee with the option to request reimbursement from the scholar. Dr. Rezek stated that the fee could be funded by the grant supporting the scholar.
 - e. Caroline Hearnberger stated that the scholars' fees would only be charged to those for whom the International Institute prepares immigration paperwork. Ms. Hearnberger stated that international students typically have their fee paid for by their sponsor or they pay for

the fee individually. Ms. Hearnberger stated that the fee is lower in comparison to other schools.

- f. Julia Hodges asked whether the fee amount needed to be increased. Dr. Rezek answered that they may revisit that subject.
 - g. Peter Ryan asked why scholars were being charged a one-time fee versus students being charged an ongoing fee. Dr. Rezek stated that there are fewer visits by the scholars and that the services such as events, Orientation, and transportation are provided more frequently to students.
 - h. Jim West asked how many international students are at MSU. Ms. Hearnberger answered that there were about 800 enrolled last year and that the International Institute provides support to students after they graduate as well, for no cost.
4. Freshmen Mid-Term Grades:
- a. Rodney Pearson discussed the importance of providing feedback to students and interveners in an attempt to improve retention and graduation rates. Interveners include Pathfinders who look at absence data, Navigators who were hired to assist a group of freshmen students, academic advisors, parents, etc. The only information interveners have readily available is through BANNER; interveners don't have access to MyCourses. Dr. Pearson shows that students who do poorly in their first semester of college have lower retention and graduation rates and that absences are a good predictor of grades.
 - b. Dr. Pearson stated that the sooner that interveners can get the feedback, the better, and that he would like for grade and absence reporting to occur as early and frequently as possible.
 - c. Dr. Pearson distributed a handout containing data and recommendations to improve retention of at-risk students. Recommendations include requiring freshmen to take a 1001 class during their first semester; expanding supplemental instruction; expanding grade and absence reporting frequency; and providing explanatory notes to students (i.e., "If your grade is below 2.0 at the end of the semester, you will be placed on Academic Probation.").
 - d. Dr. Dunaway stated that these recommendations would disproportionately affect the College of Arts & Sciences and expressed concern about the amount of resources that it would take to have multiple midterm grades input. He asked whether it is better to have 100% of midterm grades entered or have two midterm grade entry-points and have a 50% entrances of those grades. Dr. Dunaway stated that he is not saying it's not worth the time; just that it disproportionately affects the College of Arts & Sciences.
 - e. Dr. Pearson stated that the earlier feedback can be provided the better.
 - f. Chris Snyder expressed concern that more frequent reporting may lead to an increase in scantron and multiple choice testing which may lead to a detriment in student writing.
5. Other Items:
- a. Mike Rackley distributed a handout regarding the Microsoft Home Use Program which allows faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to download Microsoft Office at no cost to them.
6. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 PM.