

Deans Council Minutes
January 5, 2015
1:30 PM
President's Conference Room, Lee Hall

Members Present: Jerry Gilbert (chair), Richard Blackbourn, Lori Bruce, Tim Chamblee, Frances Coleman, Cody Coyne, John Dickerson, Greg Dunaway, Kent Hoblet, Julia Hodges, George Hopper, Jason Keith, Brandon Jolly (for Joan Lucas), Sharon Oswald, Allison Pearson, Mike Rackley, Peter Ryan, Chris Snyder, Jim West.
Others Present: Teresa Gammill, Judy Spencer, Steve Taylor.
Minutes taken by: Martha Thomas.

1. Upon a motion by Lori Bruce and second by Jim West, the minutes of the December 15, 2014, meeting were approved unanimously with no edits.
2. Announcements:
 - a. Jerry Gilbert reminded the Deans Council of the transition to fixed administrative stipends and asked that the changes occur during the budget cycle with a July 1 effective date. Dr. Gilbert stated that he would approve of using the stipend amount from the individual's offer letter when he/she began in the position. Dr. Gilbert stated that he hoped administrators with percent stipends would be pleased with the change.
 - b. Dr. Gilbert gave a brief enrollment update for the spring 2015 semester.
 - c. Dr. Gilbert discussed efforts to create a policy prohibiting students from studying abroad for a credit course or internship in a country that has a travel warning. Dr. Gilbert stated that allowing such to occur is a liability to the student and university.
 - i. Chris Snyder asked if the policy would be enforced by the Office of Study Abroad. Dr. Gilbert stated that it would but that several instances have occurred without the knowledge of this office or central administration.
 - ii. Dr. Gilbert stated that the policy would be written with sufficient latitude to accommodate faculty-led programs.
 - d. John Dickerson gave a brief enrollment update for fall 2015, announcing that applications and admissions were up across the board.
 - e. Dr. Gilbert stated that MSU has begun offering scholarships for study abroad to incoming freshmen based on GPA and ACT. Students would be able to use the scholarship at any point during their undergraduate career. Dr. Gilbert stated that the university would begin publicizing this creative recruiting opportunity.
 - f. Dr. Gilbert gave an update on the move of Enrollment to the Division of Academic Affairs and stated that he hopes to continue to build a strong relationship between the colleges and Enrollment.
 - g. Dr. Gilbert asked the deans to encourage faculty to report absences, especially for freshman students.
 - h. Dr. Gilbert discussed a book he recently read regarding the economic impact of universities.
 - i. Lori Bruce announced that graduate enrollment is down. The Graduate School conducted a survey and found that students would like more positive communication from their academic departments.

3. William L. Giles Distinguished Professors Nominations:
 - a. Allison Pearson, representing the Giles Distinguished Professors group, expressed appreciation for Giles nominations. She encouraged faculty who are considering applying to begin doing so a year or two in advance of the deadline. Dr. Pearson encouraged deans to encourage outstanding faculty to apply.
 - b. Dr. Pearson stated that the Giles Distinguished Professors and David Shaw (Chair of the Selection Committee) would be happy to speak with faculty who are considering applying and previewing their packets.
 - c. Dr. Pearson discussed the rigor required of being selected as a Giles Distinguished Professor and stated that it is more rigorous than applying for promotion to full professor.
 - d. Jim West expressed concern at a rumor that external research funding is weighted heavily in terms of considering nominations. Lori Bruce stated that external funding is not weighted heavier but that excellence in all three areas of teaching, research, and service is vital. Dr. Pearson stated that it is critical for faculty to make their case for excellence in those areas with respect to the nominee's respective academic area.
 - e. Richard Blackbourn asked if there were any current Giles Distinguished Professors in the arts. Dr. Pearson stated that there were none currently but several retirees were in the arts.
 - f. Dr. Pearson reiterated that the Giles Distinguished Professors would be happy to meet with interested faculty and mentor them through the application process.
4. Other Items:
 - a. Dr. Gilbert called attention to the Faculty Senate call for nominations for the SEC Professor of the Year award.
 - b. Judy Spencer announced upcoming search committee training sessions offered by Dr. Stephen Lee and asked that interested faculty and staff attend.
 - c. Ms. Spencer discussed the tobacco user surcharge going into effect this year.
5. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.