

Deans Council Minutes
October 12, 2015
1:30 PM
Presidents Conference Room, Lee Hall

In attendance: Jerry Gilbert (chair), Richard Blackburn, Rebecca Long (for Lori Bruce), Pat Matthes (for Frances Coleman), John Dickerson, Greg Dunaway, Anastasia Elder, Julia Hodges, George Hopper, Jason Keith, Brandon Jolly (for Joan Lucas), Meghan Millea, Sharon Oswald, Mike Rackley, Roxie Raven, Peter Ryan, Chris Snyder, Ron McLaughlin (for Kent Hoblet), Jim West

Others present: Cedric Gathings, Lynn Reinschmiedt, Judy Spencer, Teresa Gammil (for David Shaw)

Minutes taken by: Lecrisha Nail

1. Upon a motion by Jason Keith and second by George Hopper, the minutes of the September 14, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously with no edits.
2. Announcements:
 - a. Dr. Gilbert had a discussion this morning about a new change regarding RAC numbers. Training will be scheduled starting this Thursday.
 - i. System is electronic now. Mostly effecting faculty advisors.
 - ii. Registrar's office worked with ITS and developed an automated system for keeping up with RAC numbers and releases.
 - iii. May need to look at updating who has access.
 - iv. Faculty can meet in person with registrar for training also.
 - b. Dean's council is meeting again on October 19 (deans only). Jack McCarty will speak about fund raising.
 - c. Dr. Gilbert and Dr. Shaw met with the Moroccan Ambassador last week about collaborations between MSU and schools in Morocco.
 - d. Also talked with Dr. Elliott Shore. They discussed the ARL library system and that MSU has been applying for this status. He was not aware of our grant library. ARL is going to look at MSU output. Should be in better standing the next time we apply for ARL status.
3. Yield in Majors
 - a. Noel Levits was here last week and said that our 3.5 reduction in yield of admitted students was normal.
 - b. Pointed out some units are better at completing the admitted to enrolled status.
 - c. Print out shows top 30 majors based on enrollment, one year comparison.
 - d. Registrar meets once a month with administrators of each major to look at numbers.
 - e. Registrar focuses on admit to enroll yields in the winter and spring.
 - f. Connection to academic discipline makes a big difference.
 - g. Some majors offer a pre-course for a year before the students are actually considered a major.
 - h. Dr. Gilbert mentioned the IHL sponsored Complete College America conference that he and some other MSU employees attended on September 28 and 29. He said they stressed the importance of having a curriculum map that students would use to help them see all the degree requirements.
 - i. MSU may want to look at creating a website that students can go to and see at one location what all the requirements are for different degrees.
 - ii. Dr. Gilbert asked the deans to go back to their department heads and work on creating a course map for their majors and creating a link to the website.
 - iii. Roxie Raven mentioned that Student Association is pushing for this right now also.
 - iv. The former provost at Florida State said they have started using this, and it has increased college completion rates.

4. Possible Modification of General Education Curriculum
 - a. Some curriculum may be too specific for some majors. Could possibly lower the course requirements (less science courses for someone who is majoring in Philosophy).
 - b. Some deans expressed concern for these changes and not giving a broad enough education.
 - c. It was also mentioned that it could relieve some of the issues we have had with understaffed faculty.
 - d. MSU has to be competitive with our peers who may be offering lower general education requirements. This could be affecting our enrollment.
 - e. This could offer flexibility in our curriculum.
 - f. Dr. Hopper mentioned looking at some statistics of our peer colleges.
5. Other
 - a. Dr. Dunaway mentioned the department of humanities is having a ten year anniversary symposium this week.
 - i. Thursday is featured speaker John Churchill, President of Phi Beta Kappa.
 - ii. Friday is a luncheon at noon
 - b. Dr. Hopper mentioned that the College of Agriculture is hosting a homecoming breakfast Saturday morning, and also the wood science fair that brings in a lot of students.
 - c. Dr. Oswald also mentioned that the College of Business is having a homecoming breakfast Saturday also.
 - d. Dr. Keith asked about CTL certification. More information will be coming. Linda Morse and Dr. Gilbert are already working on the details of this.
 - e. Dr. Blackbourn announced the grant that the college of education received.
6. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.