

Deans Council Minutes
September 19, 2016
1:30 PM
Presidents Conference Room, Lee Hall

In attendance: Judy Bonner, chair, Julia Hodges, Frances Coleman, George Hopper, Jason Keith, Joan Lucas, Sharon Oswald, Mike Rackley, Peter Ryan, Kent Hoblet, Rick Travis, Greg Hall (for Jim West), Tim Chamblee, Allison Pearson, Terry Dale Cruse, Brent Fountain, Lori Bruce, John Dickerson, Richard Blackburn, Chris Snyder

Others present: Teresa Gammill, Susan Seal, Hunt Walne

Minutes taken by: Dinah Jenkins

- I. Judy Bonner called the meeting to order. Approval of minutes from August 15, 2016 delayed as no hard copies provided. Agenda items discussed:
- II. Curriculum Review Report/Tim Chamblee
 - a. A comprehensive review of the university curriculum process was conducted during the 2015/16 academic year; focus on improving clarity and transparency.
 - i. Improved communication needed between department, college and university level committees to allow issues to be handled at an early stage.
 - ii. Documentation needed within software for workflow in order for needed corrections to a proposal can be communicated back to the dean.
 - iii. Department heads and deans need to be advised not to place new assistant professors on the UCCC because of the time and workload required.
 - iv. Degree proposals now assigned to subgroup that will point out issues with duplication, methods of evaluation, contact hours, split-level courses, and graduate-level courses.
 - b. Dr. Travis asked if it was possible to broaden the definition of a technical change so more things are streamlined; Dr. Chamblee agreed the committee could review.
 - c. Instructors can be on committee as it is an elected membership as is Faculty Senate.
 - d. Frances Colman stated people typically answer, "Yes" to the question "Are the resources in support of this proposal available". There have been one or two times when courses were approved without adequate library resources. Dr. Chamblee said he believes they are looking at resources within their department and not outside.
 - e. Dr. Bruce requested the UCCC thoroughly review graduate proposals and not rely on the Graduate Council.
- III. Academic Calendar: Peter Ryan
 - a. Decision made by calendar committee to begin Fall 2017 semester on August 16th.
 - i. For future calendars, will pay more attention to dates and ensure there is time between the end of exams, commencement, due dates for grades being submitted, and closing of the university for holidays.
- IV. Math Pathways: Peter Ryan
 - a. A number of states have developed Math Pathway strategies depending on the interests of the student – STEM vs. non-STEM.
 - b. MSU is the only IHL institution requiring six hours of math education as part of general education program. What is being considered is broadening the flexibility for students that are non-STEM. One suggestion is to allow a course in quantitative reasoning to count as a math requirement. Three institutions offer it (UM, USM, DS). The others only require three hours of math.
 - c. Unlike college algebra, quantitative reasoning is not a foundational math course.

- d. The community colleges want to know what math courses the universities will accept. Delta State was given the charge to develop a survey on what math pathways other states accept.
 - e. Dr. Travis compared quantitative reasoning with an introduction to statistics course, which was a common route in the late 80's/early 90's. While this approach would cost more because we currently have no one to teach quantitative reasoning, there is some evidence that student math success rates will improve if you more loosely define math to include quantitative reasoning because it aims at some of the same basic learning outcomes, making math less of a stumbling block for some students.
 - f. Dr. Cruse stated they worked through those pathway programs with the community colleges (Meridian & East MS); were stuck on the quantitative reasoning course. Most of our programs do not take it, yet the community college is providing it as a foundational math course. So when you look at transfer issues, it does create stumbling blocks for students.
 - g. Ole Miss has just started allowing quantitative reasoning again this fall.
 - h. Dr. Travis said we still routinely count quantitative reasoning as one of the two math's for transfers, if they ask, so they can get into trig if they have the correct ACT sub score. We put a waiver in the system.
- V. Other
- a. Richard Blackburn stated they were in the process of trying to expand the METP, a collaborative program with Ole Miss for outstanding students that want to go into education. They are hoping for some legislative support.
 - b. Dr. Bonner stated teaching awards MSU offer are Alumni Award for undergraduate teaching, Alumni Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching and the Grisham Outstanding Teaching awards. A request has been made to expand the graduate award to include excellence in teaching in first professional. It is an easy way to make certain our faculty in CVM can be considered for these awards as well.
 - c. Susan Seal talked with the Center for Teaching and Learning and will be looking into motivation or an award specific to faculty teaching in distance education.
 - d. George Hopper suggested some faculty might like to hear from a colleague at the convocation lecture. Could be a Grisham teacher opportunity. Etc...
 - e. Dr. Hopper reported The Society of American Foresters recognized a university for its professionalism and service and MSU-CFR students were awarded national champion for the best forestry program in the nation. We have been top three for 15 years.
 - f. Jason Keith reported Johnny Sublet, Aerospace Engineering student, was selected as a Goldwater scholar and appreciate the support from the honors college helping him with his application. Ag & Bio engineering had (unofficial) all time high enrollment and was over 50% female. Petroleum engineering up and running and has over 88 students and getting software donations. Appreciate support from industry and our alums. Engineering on the coast has about 50 students enrolled.
 - g. John Dickerson gave word of thanks for partnerships and cooperation for Fall enrollment. The early numbers look very strong and look forward to working together.
 - h. Terry Dale Cruse stated numbers are up in Meridian. Thanked Dr. Hopper as they are now selling cheese and ice cream.
 - i. Joan Lucas stated it was more HR but Judy Spencer has done a phenomenal job on the FSLA updates and we are reviewing now. Will be rolled out shortly.
 - j. Susan Seal stated Center of Distance Education will be touching base with some of the deans and department heads and looking some programs we may can expand at distance education.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.