

Deans Council
February 28, 2011
3:00 PM
Allen 611

Members Present: Jerry Gilbert (chair), Mark Binkley, Richard Blackbourn, Tim Chamblee, Frances Coleman, Bill Person (for Lou D'Abramo), Louis Dawkins, Rhett Hobart, Robert Cooper (for Kent Hoblet), George Hopper, Joan Lucas, Meghan Millea, Dennis Mitchell, Gary Myers, Mike Rackley, Sarah Rajala, Lynn Reinschmiedt, Peter Ryan, Butch Stokes, Jim West.

Others Present: Teresa Gammill.

Minutes taken by: Martha Thomas.

1. Upon a motion by Gary Myers and second by Louis Dawkins, the minutes of the February 14, 2011, meeting were approved with no corrections.
2. Announcements:
 - a. Jerry Gilbert discussed the solicitation of faculty priorities for new tenure-track faculty positions from most of the colleges (excluding the separately-budgeted Meridian campus and College of Veterinary Medicine). Dr. Gilbert stated that he hopes to have decisions back to the Deans within a week or two regarding available funding. The decisions will be based primarily on teaching, but research will also be examined. Dr. Gilbert stated that he hopes that each college will get at least one additional tenure-track faculty position.
 - b. Dr. Gilbert asked the Deans for their opinions on holding a "budget presentation" for each college to share information with the President, Provost, and others about where their college is and where the college wants to be.
 - i. Sarah Rajala stated that such a presentation would give an opportunity to discuss what's going on in the colleges.
 - ii. Gary Myers agreed, but stated that he felt that, regardless of what was reported during previous "budget presentations," it would not make a difference in terms of budget allocation.
 - iii. Dr. Gilbert stated that he anticipates that the value of such a presentation would be worthwhile for future planning purposes – giving the administration the opportunity to think about future planning rather than immediate planning. Dr. Gilbert suggested that the presentations be called "annual reports" to reflect on the presentation's ties to the strategic plan rather than the budget.
 - iv. Dr. Myers asked whether there have been additional conversations about the availability of start-up funds.
 1. Dr. Gilbert stated that there have been further conversations and that the administration has allocated start-up funding to go along with the new faculty positions described above.
 - v. George Hopper stated that he believed this type of report would be useful as a source of information for those involved. Dr. Hopper suggested that May would be a better timeframe for these reports (rather than April).

- c. Dr. Gilbert announced that Renee Baker from Rochester Institute of Technology will be making a presentation regarding the recruitment of diverse faculty on Friday, March 25. Lunch will be from 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM on the fourth floor of Swalm School of Chemical Engineering, with the presentation from 1:00 – 5:00 PM in Fowlkes Auditorium of the Union.
 - d. Dr. Gilbert stated that if he has not spoken with the Deans about their respective college's promotion and tenure applications, that there were no problems with them.
 - e. Dr. Gilbert announced that the online survey of academic administrators will be open from February 28 through March 14. An e-mail will be sent to those invited to participate in the survey and they will be provided with a link to the survey which will show only those individuals they can evaluate (i.e., Department Head and Dean). There will be faculty and staff at the university who will not receive an e-mail as they do not report to an academic dean or department head.
 - i. There was discussion about the criteria utilized to determine the reporting structure, including the reporting line to academic affairs, determination of academic units that create credit hours, etc.
 - ii. Dr. Gilbert stated that Associate Deans were classified as staff for the purpose of this survey.
 - iii. Dr. Gilbert stated that David Shaw has expressed an interest in administering a similar survey for the Division of Research and Economic Development. At this time, this survey is strictly an academic exercise which may be expanded depending on its success.
 - f. Dr. Gilbert announced that the Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival will be held March 25 & 26.
3. AOP 12.11 – Degree Requirements – Undergraduate:
- a. Peter Ryan discussed the edits made to this AOP prior to its arrival at Deans Council:
 - i. Humanities and Fine Arts under item 2 were incorrectly coupled.
 - ii. Item 7 was misleading as different units have different ways to advise. This section was broadened.
 - iii. Information about the University Academic Advising Center was added.
 - b. Suggested revisions of this AOP include:
 - i. Omitting the following sentence in item 7:
 - 1. “In addition, advisors are assigned in the appropriate colleges for students wishing to pursue degrees in Agricultural Science, General Business, General Liberal Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies, and General Science.”
 - c. **On a motion by Dr. Hopper and second by Dr. Rajala, AOP 12.11 – Degree Requirements – Undergraduate was approved with the above revision.**
4. Other Items:
- a. Rhett Hobart announced that Halston Hales was elected the new Vice President for the Student Association and will attend the next Deans Council meeting.

- b. Butch Stokes stated that he recently participated in a conference call related to the textbook adoption policy. It appears IHL will be assessing whether the policy is assisting students with the cost of textbooks. According to Barnes & Noble, the least expensive method of acquiring textbooks is to purchase used textbooks and sell them back to the bookstore at the end of the semester.