

Deans Council Minutes
March 22, 2010

Members present: Jerry Gilbert, chairman; Richard Blackburn, Frances Coleman, Kent Hoblet, George Hopper, Meghan Millea, Melissa Mixon, Gary Myers, Donna Reese (for Sarah Rajala), Paul Grimes (for Lynne Richardson), Peter Ryan, Rhett Hobart, Jack Tucci, and Jim West. Also present were: Mark Binkley, Tim Chamblee, Julie Fulgham, Charles Guest, Mike Rackley, and Butch Stokes.

1. The minutes from the February 15, 2010 meeting were approved with no discussion or corrections.
2. Announcements:
 - The Marszalek lecture is scheduled for March 24 at 2:00 PM in the Grisham Room. More information is available on the website.
 - StatePride faculty awards nominations are due in the Provost's office on April 1. Deans are also reminded to submit college guidelines.
 - International Studies Certificate (handout) description was shared. Molly Watkins is heading this up. Scholarships will be awarded after a competitive process.
3. The Executive Vice President position will be evolving in the next couple of weeks. Possible restructuring is being discussed now. Dr. Gilbert expressed an interest in informal breakfast meetings with the deans.
4. Dr. Gilbert also stated that he would like to visit with each college informally over the next couple of weeks. This would be a walk-thru to greet people, and have the dean show him around. At a later date, we will arrange formal meetings at every college. Dr. Gilbert also wants to have meetings with department heads, with deans present.
5. We have a task force looking at the funding model at AOCE and consolidation of IT.
6. Dr. Glenn Steele will head an advisory committee to continue looking at Efficiencies and Innovations. We have already implemented one of those recommendations - the early retirement plan - - and the commitment date for that is April 20. A benchmarking process is ongoing and this will enable us to make decisions about where to re-staff after retirement process.
7. A book has been selected for the common reading program. Dr. Gilbert would like for the deans to read this and will provide a book to each dean. This will be discussed in more detail at the deans' breakfast meeting. The book is "Three Cups of Tea" and the author (Greg Mortensen) will visit our campus in September.
8. Dr. Gilbert stressed accountability. If changes are needed, we need to handle the situation. Dr. Gilbert led a discussion concerning accountability.
9. Dr. Gilbert led a discussion concerning the possible "professor of practice" or "professor of instruction" designations.
10. Dr. Gilbert and Dr. Shaw have discussed start-up funds. In the future, the colleges will have more responsibility in the management of start-up funds.

11. Dr. Gilbert said that deans need to talk to departments about enrollment. Student Affairs and Academic Affairs will work together to create an enrollment plan for the future.
12. Information was provided (handout) regarding the possibility of changing class times in order to give more time between classes. This will be a topic for a future Deans Council meeting.
13. Dr. Nancy McCarley, director of the Shackouls Honors College, led a discussion regarding the value of the honors college at MSU.
14. Other Items:
 - Butch Stokes reported that two important meetings are coming up: (1) Commencement meeting at 4:00 PM today (discussing having only a spring commencement each year; (2) Registration and Scheduling Committee meeting, regarding class meeting schedule.
 - Meghan Millea reported that Hart Bailey will send out a notice soon regarding deadline for comments on the Efficiencies and Innovations recommendations.
 - Millea also reported that the Benchmarking Committee will help with restaffing after retirement incentive.
 - Millea reported that annual review processes differ across campus and Faculty Senate is reviewing that.
 - Dean Myers reported that on April 6 at 4:00 PM, Poet Laureate Ted Kooser will speak at McComas.
 - Dean Coleman reported that this weekend the Templeton Jazz Festival will be held on campus.
 - Dean Hopper reported that Dick Molpus will be the speaker next month for the Carlton Owen Lecture Series in the College of Forest Resources.
 - Dean Tucci reported that Casandra Wilson will be at the Riley Center on Saturday night.
 - Rhett Hobart (Student Association Vice President) introduced himself and said he will be representing the Student Association on Deans Council.
 - Julie Fulgham reported that she will send the list of unclaimed faculty out to the deans.