

Deans Council Minutes

April 19, 2010

Members present: Jerry Gilbert, chairman; Richard Blackburn, Frances Coleman, Lou D'Abramo, Rhett Hobart, Kent Hoblet, George Hopper, Gary Jackson, Meghan Millea, Melissa Mixon, Gary Myers, Sarah Rajala, Paul Grimes (for Lynne Richardson), Peter Ryan, Jack Tucci, and Jim West. Also present were: Mark Binkley, Tim Chamblee, Mike Rackley, David Shaw, Sharon Nobles (for Butch Stokes), Diane Alexander, Nancy McCarley, Ann Bell, and Maridith Geuder.

1. The minutes from the March 22 and April 5, 2010 meetings were approved with no discussion or corrections.
2. **Announcements:**
 - Commencement is scheduled for May 1.
 - Research Recognition Banquet is scheduled for April 29 at 6:30.
 - On Friday at 1:30, the Maroon Edition common reading book announcement will take place in the Grisham Room.
 - As indicated in an e-mail from Butch Stokes, MSU will not accept transfer credits from Southeast Baptist College, due to their not being accredited.
 - Faculty and others at MSU are asked to try to accommodate any students who were affected by the Campus Trail fire. To date, we know of approximately 70 students affected.
3. **Shackouls Honors College:** In the next couple of weeks, Dr. McCarley will write each dean concerning input on a college representative for Honors Advisory Council. Thursday, April 22, at 4:00 PM at Griffis Hall, the Honors faculty medallion ceremony will take place. Mr. and Mrs. Shackouls will be present, and Dr. Keenum will receive his medallion.
4. **Rehiring of retirees:** Ann Bell explained time frames and rules regarding the retirement incentive and rehiring of retirees. There can be no rehiring agreement prior to retirement. July 8 is the final day for retracting a commitment. PERS will not accept volunteer work for 45 days. Retirees cannot physically work past June 30. Ann stated that Human Resources is working on the report containing names of those who have expressed interest in the retirement incentive and will communicate that to the Vice Presidents as soon as the report is complete. Not all who sign the election form will choose to retire. The Vice Presidents will meet to discuss the re-hire of retiree process and then that will be shared.
5. **The changing role and challenges of 'media relations':** Maridith Geuder shared information related to news items. She discussed the various methods of sharing news and agreed that the preferred path for faculty to follow with news items would be through their department head and dean rather than going directly to University Relations. University Relations tries to separate announcements and news events.

6. **Academic Operating Policy XX.XX - Academic Amnesty for Graduate Students:** This document is modeled after the undergraduate academic amnesty document. The student must be away for five years and can apply into the same or different graduate program. A suggested revision would state "has been granted by the department". There was a motion and a second to accept the AOP with edit. There being no further discussion, the motion was approved with no opposition. This policy will now go to Faculty Senate for review.
7. **StatePride awards:** Dr. Gilbert distributed letters to the deans regarding tentative present status for the awards. Dr. Gilbert will let the deans know about the approval of the selection process.
8. **Other items:**
 - With retirements, we may have to rethink what we do and focus on core courses. We need to convey that message to departments.
 - If possible, we should avoid naming a department head as graduate coordinator. Graduate coordinators need to be Level 1 tenured faculty.
 - We may need the departments' assistance in getting benchmarking data together.
 - There was a question concerning duplication of Institutional Research work on the Sasaki master plan requests. Dr. Gilbert stated that he will check and get back to the deans concerning projection data.
 - Meghan Millea stated that the confidence survey was released today. Please contact Faculty Senate office if you experience problems. Another issue that has come up with Faculty Senate is inconsistent release of external letters from P&T process. Annual reviews are also inconsistent across colleges. Dr. Gilbert stated that the content of external letters could be shared without revealing the identity of the reviewer. Perhaps the colleges need to share the letter they send to external reviewers – to check the differences.
 - Dean Hopper reported that a distinguished lecturer, Dick Molpus, will be on campus tomorrow at 2:00 PM.
 - Dr. D'Abramo shared that notification of \$250,000 for official assistantships has been distributed.