

Deans Council
August 30, 2010
1:30 PM
Allen 611

Members Present: Jerry Gilbert (chair), Mark Binkley, Richard Blackbourn, Timothy Chamblee, Frances Coleman, Lou D'Abramo, Rhett Hobart, Robert Cooper (for Kent Hoblet), George Hopper, Gary Jackson, Joan Lucas, Meghan Millea, Walter Diehl (for Gary Myers), Mike Rackley, Lori Bruce (for Sarah Rajala), Lynne Richardson, Peter Ryan, Butch Stokes, Jack Tucci, and Jim West.

Others Present: Diane Alexander, Phil Bonfanti, Eddie Keith, Duncan McKenzie, Juli Rester, Ray Vaughn (for David Shaw), Judy Spencer, and Catherine Walker.

Minutes taken by: Martha Thomas.

1. The minutes of the August 2, 2010, meeting and the August 16, 2010, meeting were approved with no corrections.
2. Announcements:
 - a. StatePride Awards are due to the Office of the Provost by September 1, although the office will be flexible on the deadline. The information should include the recipient's name, department name, and name of the donor associated with the award.
 - i. Dr. Gilbert led a discussion on whether we should continue StatePride Awards. The general consensus was that StatePride Awards should be continued with improvements in the process.
 - ii. Colleges will be asked to announce StatePride Award recipients with coordinated timing across campus.
 - b. Dr. Gilbert shared an e-mail he received from Maridith Geuder which indicated that the University of Southern Mississippi announced budget cuts including the elimination of several programs and faculty positions.
 - c. Dr. Gilbert announced that we have met our enrollment goals for this year and we have approximately 1,000 more students than we had last year. Dr. Gilbert indicated that he will now focus on building up the faculty to meet the demands of increasing enrollment.
 - d. Dr. Gilbert indicated that the benchmarking process is continuing with data being sent to the Deans and Department Heads. Eventually, funding will be released back to the departments with a FTE figure. The Office of the Provost will allow some flexibility with reallocating this money to positions/purposes other than those associated with the incentive retirement.
 - e. Dr. Gilbert announced that the university-wide faculty meeting will take place September 17 at 2:00 PM.
 - f. Dr. Gary Jackson announced that we have recently finalized the draft application to The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for MSU to be considered for the distinction of the foundation's Community Engagement Classification. Dr. Gilbert indicated that the report looks good and that we have an excellent chance of receiving this recognition.
 - g. Dr. Gilbert announced that MSU concluded interviews for the Vice President for Budget & Planning last week and that he will meet with the

President sometime this week to discuss the Search Committee's recommendations.

3. Eddie Keith distributed tickets to the upcoming Maroon Edition event on September 23 where the co-author Greg Mortenson will be speaking. Additional tickets can be obtained by contacting Dr. Keith's office.
4. Duncan McKenzie discussed the upcoming Thursday night football game on Scott Stricklin's behalf. There was discussion about parking and whether faculty/staff vehicles would be towed if they remain in parking lots after 5:00 PM.
 - a. There was discussion about whether we should work with the Registrar in future years when we have Thursday night football games to adjust Thursday class schedules to accommodate an extra day of class so that we could cancel classes on days when we have Thursday night football and maintain the number of contact hours.
5. Judy Spencer gave a presentation on staff salary recommendations, including the laws related to personnel actions under which the university operates.
 - a. There was discussion about waivers and legitimate reasons for waivers. Waivers should be utilized only when the person you seek to hire is the only person capable of doing that job; otherwise, you should post/advertise the job and interview applicants for that job.
 - b. The funding of reclassifications not associated with the retirement incentive must be provided from within the department.
 - c. The time when you should look to change a staff salary recommendation is not on an individual basis.
 - d. There was discussion about the inverted pay scale among faculty and about staff "job-hopping" due to the availability of support staff positions.
6. Phil Bonfanti distributed information to each of the Deans concerning their college's enrollment trends. Dr. Bonfanti uses this information to project future years' enrollment. Dr. Bonfanti will present at the next Deans Council meeting.
7. Lou D'Abramo distributed an example of the current graduate student diploma in addition to an example of an older version of the graduate student diploma. On the current graduate student diploma, the Dean of the college of the student's subject area signed the diploma. On the former graduate student diploma, the Dean of the Graduate School signed the diploma. Several graduate students have requested that we revert to the signatory on the former diploma. This has been unanimously supported by the Graduate Council and Dr. D'Abramo wanted to bring this to the Deans Council for their consideration.
8. Butch Stokes announced that the spring master schedule will be distributed to departments this week due to the timing associated with the new textbook adoption policy.