

Deans Council Minutes
January 12, 2009

Members present: Peter Rabideau, chairman; Hart Bailey, Richard Blackbourn, Donna Clevinger, Harry Llull (for Frances Coleman), Lou D'Abramo, Jerry Gilbert, Kent Hoblet, George Hopper, Melissa Mixon, Linda Morse, Gary Myers, Sarah Rajala, Lynne Richardson, and Jim West. Also present were: President Keenum, Kirk Schulz, Mark Binkley, Butch Stokes, Julie Fulgham, Charles Guest, and Mike Rackley.

1. President Keenum items:
 - The President will look to the Deans Counsel for guidance and what he can do to help.
 - He is concerned about the state of affairs with the national economy and met with legislative leaders to talk about budget concerns.
 - The President is optimistic that we will be successful in obtaining bond money.
 - We anticipate some cuts -- somewhere between 5% and 2%. We will work closely together through this process. The President will look to the Deans Council for counsel and input.
 - The President has been meeting with strong supporters and will continue to do that.
 - This month, President Keenum and Kirk Schulz visited in Washington with congressional delegation, regarding FY 2010 proposals.
 - President Keenum has visited with department heads in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and would like to come to departments and get to know the faculty.
2. Dr. Rabideau reported that he will be in Jackson at the Board of Trustees' meeting this week. There will be discussion concerning electronic transcripts, as well as discussion concerning offering of courses on-site within the geographical region of another university. At the moment, MSU is free to do distance programs anywhere in the state.
3. Dr. Rabideau reported that he, Kirk Schulz, and Mike McGrevey met recently to discuss start-up funds., and they will meet with the President in hopes of getting the go-ahead on the pool of funds. After that meeting, information will be shared as quickly as possible concerning central funds.
4. Other items:
 - Dean Rajala reported:
 - a. Dr. Louay Chamra (presently Interim Head) will become the Department Head in Mechanical Engineering on February 1.
 - b. Dr. Bill Batchelor has been named a Fellow of ASABE (his professional society).
 - c. Lamar McKay (a graduate in Petroleum Engineering at MSU) has been named President and CEO of BP America.
 - Registrar Stokes reported:
 - a. Registration continues through Wednesday for this semester.
 - b. Tomorrow is the last day to drop and receive a refund.
 - c. Enrollment last Friday reached 16,200, with enrollment last year being 15,585.
 - d. Butch will be going to Jackson to meet with the Electronic Transcript Task Force. This past year, MSU sent 28,000 transcripts - - over 5,000 went out electronically in pdf format for instant delivery. Over 80% of MSU transcripts go to employers, boards, etc. Only 20% go to other institutions.
 - Dean Lynne Richardson reported:
 - a. The College of Business Director of Development was named in the Top Forty Under Forty by the *Starkville Daily News*, and was also named in the *Mississippi Business Journal*.
 - b. Dean Richardson will participate in "Leadership Mississippi" this year in Jackson.
 - c. The College of Business leadership will have a retreat later this month, focusing on "undergraduate education experiences outside the classroom".

- Dean Myers reported:
 - a. The first speaker for the second semester of Institution of Humanities Lecture Series will be on January 28th.
 - b. In February, a department head mini retreat will be held in Meridian.
- Dean D'Abramo reported:
 - a. The new web-site for the Graduate School was operational on December 19th. Please give your comments. In the Prospective Graduate Students area, there have been 119 information requests after the holidays.
 - b. Graduate recruitment grants were given from departments.
 - c. The spring workshop was successful, with 57 graduate students attending, and received good feedback.
- Dean Blackburn reported:
 - a. Last year the Migrant Education Program came to the College of Education. As a result of audit, MSU will pick up the other areas state-wide, with additional money and outreach.
- Dean Hopper reported:
 - a. The College of Forest Resources is working to fill four positions and the pool of candidates is impressive.
 - b. Last year, CFR graduate students established a "Natural Resources Graduate Symposium", led by graduate students for graduate students. CFR will do this again this year on February 23-24 at the Franklin Center.
 - c. Dr. Jeanne Jones was awarded Fellow in the Wildlife Society.
- Dean Clevinger reported:
 - a. Penny Kemp, Marketing Director for the Riley Center, was in the Top Forty Under Forty.
 - b. Meridian now has a link on the MSU web-site.
 - c. The President visited the Meridian campus last week and it was a very good visit.
 - d. There has been a rash of bomb threats in Meridian, but none affected the campus.
- Dean Mixon reported:
 - a. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will host the Delta Health Alliance on January 26, and they are looking for partners and topics to be discussed. Please share any suggestions you may have regarding public health or health related issues.
 - b. Renovation should begin in February on the Lloyd Ricks building.
 - c. Dr. Scott Willard is working with the Memphis Zoo with the panda population.
 - d. Dean Mixon noted that proposals are being submitted closer to deadlines and some do not go through. Proposals are due at Sponsored Programs five days before deadlines.
- Dr. Hart Bailey reported that the Faculty Senate met on Friday and had a good meeting with the President.
- Vice President Schulz reported:
 - a. MSU will be at \$105 million in new grants and contracts in December. This is an increase from \$75 million last year.
 - b. The federal earmark process is still underway. A recommendation will go to the President sometime next week.
- Dean West reported:
 - a. The SECAC design group met in Gainesville, Florida. Topics were: Matrix for benchmarking data; scholarship and research in design across the SEC; international and off-campus programs.
- Associate Dean Llull reported:
 - a. Lyle Tate was named in the Top Forty Under Forty. Last year, Stephen Cunetto was named in that group.
 - b. The Library has hired some very qualified faculty, making a special effort to get people with subject background for reference librarians.
- Dr. Mark Binkley reported:

- a. IHL brought up putting everything together under one banner under the state system. We are doing very well there and hope to continue to do that.
- b. If the colleges have any Study Abroad programs, please contact Molly Watkins for coordinating.