

**Deans Council Minutes**  
**January 7, 2008**

Members present: Peter Rabideau, chairman; Richard Blackburn, Frances Coleman, Jerry Gilbert, Kent Hoblet, George Hopper, Gary Myers, Al Rankins, Lynne Richardson, Glenn Steele, Vance Watson, and Jim West. Also present were: Butch Stokes, Julie Fulgham, and Mike Rackley.

1. Dr. Rabideau welcomed Dean Richardson back, after an injury as the result of a fall. Dean Richardson expressed her thanks for the care and concern shown.
2. Dean Gary Myers demonstrated the document tracking program currently being used by the College of Arts and Sciences. This was developed from an Excel spreadsheet, but is more comprehensive. Mike Rackley stated that ITS developed this program for Arts and Sciences and will be happy to work with other units if desired. There was also discussion concerning the prospect of developing and using an electronic EAF - - Dr. Rabideau will follow up on this with Vice President Mike McGrevey.
3. Dr. Gilbert distributed information regarding a Summer School and Maymester survey. He will share this information electronically with the deans. He also distributed a list of five courses that should be considered for addition to the Summer 2008 course offerings.
4. Dr. Gilbert distributed a Request for Proposals titled "Funding Support for New Conferences and Symposia". Proposals are due in the Office of the Provost by March 3, 2008
5. Other Items:
  - Dean Watson stated that the legislature starts tomorrow and may run through May. This will affect budget preparations.
  - Dean Blackburn stated that they recently broke ground for a therapeutic motor lab which will accommodate wheelchairs. This will be located at the T. K. Martin Center.
  - Dean Hoblet stated that Associate Dean Jerald Ainsworth has accepted a Dean position at Southeastern Louisiana. A search for his replacement will begin shortly.
  - Dean Hopper stated that accreditation for the Forestry Department has recently been approved. This will be effective through 2017.

- Dean Coleman said that the Library's new web-site was released this morning. She would appreciate feedback.
- Dean Richardson stated that the Meridian Business faculty are on our campus today. She had her first faculty meeting today. Accreditation issues were discussed. Dates to remember:
  - a) February 15, Cynthia Cooper will be on campus for 9:00 and 10:00 sessions and will have a book signing at the atrium at 11:00. Everyone is invited.
  - b) March 4-5, alumni will be invited to speak to classes to talk about their career paths.
  - c) Dean Richardson suggested that during MSU's disability awareness week all deans might get in a wheelchair to conduct their business. She mentioned several issues for disabled persons (examples: parking, entrances to buildings, maneuvering wheelchairs through doors, etc.).
- Dean West stated that the College of Architecture, Art and Design along with the College of Forest Resources will host a house-raising on January 19 at 8:00 AM. This will be on Blackjack Road at the Log Cabin.
- Dean Steele reiterated information from Vice President Schulz' e-mail concerning research NSF rankings. Our Engineering college moved up to #41 and we are pleased with that ranking.
- Registrar Stokes reported that we had an increase on the same day enrollment from Spring 2007 to Spring 2008. Next week, Stokes will meet with a Task Force at IHL to look at state-wide electronic transcript system. Five major vendors will be reviewed that day, with a goal to have a standardized electronic system within the state for all levels.
- Dean Myers stated that Walter Diehl is developing a research web page on the Arts and Sciences website. The Social Work program will have an on-site accreditation review in the next few weeks. Institute for Humanities will have about seven guests this semester.
- Institutional Research Director Julie Fulgham stated that Mitzy Johnson is meeting with various units to discuss assessment, accreditation and National Survey of Student Engagement. She will meet with other units as requested. Dr. Rabideau said that Mitzy should work with each college.
- Mike Rackley stated that beginning this semester, we will be using Blackboard Vista for independent study courses. We will complete conversion by Maymester. Emergency notification bids will be opened next week.