

**Deans Council Minutes**  
**September 15, 2008**

Members present: Peter Rabideau, chairman; Hart Bailey, Richard Blackburn, Donna Clevinger, 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: Kirk Schulz, Mark Binkley, Butch Stokes, Julie Fulgham, Charles Guest, Mitzy Johnson and Mike Rackley.

1. Dr. Rabideau welcomed Dr. Lou D'Abramo (new Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs) and Dr. Linda Morse (Associate Vice President Intern for Academic Affairs) to their first Deans Council meeting.
2. **Riley Center presentation:** Dennis Sankovich (Executive Director) and Penny Kemp (Marketing Director) of the Riley Center gave an overview of the Riley Center and discussed facilities available. They also had a packet of information available for attendees.
3. **Agreement of Cooperation:** Lee Weiskopf (Research Associate at SSRC) briefly discussed the Agreement of Cooperation between the University of Zagreb in Croatia and Mississippi State University. The agreement should be finalized by the end of the semester and anyone interested should contact Lee.
4. **DAFVM Faculty Mentoring Program:** Dr. Melissa Mixon shared information regarding the DAFVM Faculty Mentoring Program, and the successes they have had with that program. Dr. Rabideau stated that he had asked all colleges to initiate a mentoring program and may ask for reports from other units at a later date.
5. **MVSU visit to MSU Campus:** Vice President Schulz reported that several people from Mississippi Valley State University will be on our campus on September 30 to pursue a closer research relationship. He will communicate with the deans prior to this visit and would like to have their participation. Institutional buy-in from senior administration at MVSU and at MSU is important.
6. **SECALDP Leadership Program:** The SEC Academic Consortium began in 2005. A leadership program has begun from that organization and MSU's SECALDP fellows for 2008/09 are Dr. Lori Bruce, Dr. Sadik Artunc, and Dr. Barbara Spencer. They will participate in various leadership events. Dr. Sandra Harpole will accompany these individuals to off-campus workshops.
7. **Inside Higher Education:** Dr. Rabideau reported that [insidehighered.com](http://insidehighered.com) has web-based job postings. He will sign MSU up for six months and allow the deans to use it to see if it worthwhile. We will get details to you at a later date.
8. **Academic Operating Policies:** Dr. Gilbert reported that in preparation for our next SACS accreditation, Dr. Tim Chamblee has been asked to coordinate the activities on our campus. We are reviewing policies and find that some revisions are in order:
  - AOP 10.02 - Academic Administrators and Directors: A slight change of wording puts us in full compliance with the document on SACS web-site. This has been approved by Associate Deans. This revision was approved unanimously by Deans Council.
  - AOP 13.03 - Faculty Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum: In order to be in compliance, we have added "and Curriculum" to the Subject and in the Purpose. We have also separated into two sections "Instructional Responsibilities" and "Curriculum Responsibilities". This revision was unanimously approved as submitted.
9. **Other Items:**
  - Jim West shared that
    - a. The architecture studio on the Gulf Coast will be featured in a 6-minute clip on Fox News Channel on "Sustainable Planet". This is good exposure for MSU.
    - b. An article devoted to centers will feature MSU in the October Issue of *Architectural Record*.
  - Gary Myers reported
    - a. Our Social Work program has been re-accredited. Adele Crudden, Director, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Council of Disability and Persons with Disability.
    - b. Communication faculty member Laura Walton has been named the first Educator of the Year for the Southern Public Relations Federation.
    - c. African American Studies will host a Forum on African American Studies on September 18th at 2:00 PM in the Grisham Room with a lecture by Dr. Charles Payne at 6:30 PM in McCool Hall.
  - Richard Blackburn reported
    - a. Education hosted a conference at the Riley Center and they did a very good job.
    - b. Education will soon announce a major gift in the College of Education, but the donors have asked that the amount not be announced.

- Frances Coleman reported
  - a. Barry Goldwater, Jr. will be the first speaker for Collins Speaker series on October 30.
  - b. Department heads will receive information soon regarding allocations. We have received funds from food services on campus.
- Butch Stokes reported
  - a. We are working to set up progress reports on degree audit system.
  - b. We have visitors today from University of Oklahoma, Norman - they are looking at Banner and our registration system.
- Mike Rackley reported
  - a. Last year Faculty Senate requested a meeting for faculty to offer feedback on registration and advising system. The first meeting was in July, the second meeting is coming up in November and we invite faculty to come and offer suggestions. We will expand the forum to include Student Affairs and bring orientation into the discussion.
  - b. We are planning the first Information Security Week to coincide with National Security Month in mid-October. This will include guest speakers, exhibits, and an opportunity to learn more about information security.
  - c. Our transition from WebCT to Blackboard Vista was recently completed.
  - d. We have discussed changes in the market and are interested in what ITAC subcommittee will find.
- George Hopper reported
  - a. CFR hosted a back to school event and more than 300 people attended.
  - b. CFR got their first chair in the college, James Kennedy Chair. The gift was \$2,000,035, the largest chair gift for MSU.
- Sarah Rajala reported
  - a. Engineering received a \$2,000,000 gift from Paccar and this will help fund department chair in Mechanical Engineering and student activities.
  - b. Effective October 1, Lorie Bruce will be Associate Dean in Engineering.
  - c. Dave Dampier and Ray Vaughn received awards for competitive work in information assurance and computer security. This results in four years of funding for 20 students a year.
- Lynne Richardson reported
  - a. All the deans are invited to the lunch on September 24th, the day of the Leadership Summit. Please contact Barbara Spencer for tickets. We still have Colin Powell tickets available.
  - b. MSU will host business school deans from other Mississippi institutions on our campus on October 21 or December 2, for collaborative efforts.
  - c. We are working on "new administrator orientation" and have sent a draft of a letter to Dr. Gilbert. We would like to have the first session next Thursday. We will discuss P&T, personnel issues, rules, policies, practices at MSU.
  - d. Dean Richardson will be participating in the interviews for MSU president this week.
- Kent Hoblet reported
  - a. We purchased property in Flowood, off Lakewood Drive. This will be the site for a specialist clinic. We hope to have students there within a year.
  - b. We have received notice for a contract for West Virginia to fund students here. Five years, total of 20 students, who will pay in-state tuition and West Virginia will pick up the rest.
- Hart Bailey reported that the Faculty Senate had their first meeting last week.
- Melissa Mixon reported
  - a. CALS will have their annual Homecoming breakfast on October 24th at 7:30 AM.
  - b. On October 17-18, the fall flower and garden festival will be held at Crystal Springs.
- Lou D'Abramo reported
  - a. The Office of Graduate School will be revamping their website by the end of September.
  - b. We have some organizational changes - - a couple of title changes; two new positions (Administrative Assistant to the Dean and Accounting Assistant).
  - c. We are working on graduate student recruitment fund to enhance recruiting efforts.
  - d. We are working on the electronic flow of applications.