

## **Deans Council Minutes November 17, 2008**

Members present: Peter Rabideau, chairman; Hart Bailey, Richard Blackburn, Donna Clevinger, Harry Lull (for Frances Coleman), Lou D'Abramo, Jerry Gilbert, Kent Hoblet, Rick Kaminski (for George Hopper), Melissa Mixon, Linda Morse, Gary Myers, Sarah Rajala, Lynne Richardson, Braxton Stowe, and Jim West. Also present were: Laura Crittenden (for Mark Binkley), Butch Stokes, Julie Fulgham, Charles Guest, and Mike Rackley.

1. **MSU Research Focus Areas:** (handouts) The Report of the ORED Summer Research Focus Group on Research Focus Areas was distributed earlier by Dr. Schulz and the Appendix A came from the FutureState 2015 document. Dr. Rabideau presented the document for discussion and asked the deans to think about it and talk to faculty and departments. However, after discussion among the deans, Dr. Rabideau took by consensus that there was little interest from the deans to pursue these research focus areas. Dr. Rabideau indicated that he would report this back to Dr. Schulz.
2. **Budget:** We are proceeding with looking at dealing with 2% cut in this years' budget (academic programs will be immune), but we may look at a more significant 4% or higher cut next year. In preparation for our new President, Mike McGrevey is creating a committee (made up of representatives from each division) to look at approaches to this. John Rush will provide information on endowment funds. We have a list of building closures for the holidays to conserve energy. We will deal with specific issues as necessary. We are not asking anyone to prepare information relating to cuts at this time. We are moving ahead and striving for excellence.
3. **Enrollments:** With newly acquired software and with adjusting the class schedules to 8:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday, the Registrar could facilitate handling 20,000 students. Dr. Keenum's goal of 22,000 students is not in the next 2 to 3 years. If new buildings are planned, we should definitely include classrooms. After Dr. Keenum arrives, Dr. Rabideau plans to approach him about the possibility of a classroom building.
4. **Advising:** As a follow-up to Braxton's comments at the last meeting, Dr. Rabideau asked each dean to send to the Office of the Provost information regarding how each department handles advising as well as how each college handles advising (professional advising, faculty advising, career advising, etc.).
5. **Promotion and Tenure:** Dr. Rabideau shared with the Deans Council information that he presented to the recent Promotion and Tenure Workshop. He has also added a list of research institutions.
6. **Teachers of record:** There has been a problem in timely reporting of the name of teachers. After discussion it was decided that Butch would have a list prepared by the 10th day of classes.
7. **Other items:**
  - Dean D'Abramo stated that
    - a. There are 15 grants for graduate assistant, ranging from \$1500 to \$2000. The deadline is mid-December.
    - b. The TA workshop is being revamped, with a goal of making it more relevant and valuable to the students. We are working with Matt Raven.
    - c. This year we will be close to awarding 130 to 140 doctorates.
  - Dean Hoblet reported that

- a. The 4-year Veterinary Medical Technology Bachelor of Science was approved by IHL (handout). The first class will be Fall 2010.
- b. We had three faculty members receive national awards: Jan Chambers, Phil Bushby, and Kim Johnson.
- Dean Clevinger reported
  - a. A month ago, we began a weekly radio show in Meridian.
  - b. We are about to start a TV program through the local TV station, free air-time for two minutes every other week. This will give us another connection into the Meridian community.
- Braxton Stowe reported
  - a. The Student Association has been working on "Holiday in the Junction" to be held on December 1 at 7:00 PM which will include activities, lighting the tree, Christmas story, movie, etc.
  - b. Next semester Braxton will be doing his student teaching and appreciates the experience he has had at Deans Council. After graduation, Braxton will continue his graduate studies at MSU.
- Dean Richardson reported
  - a. This week, the community will have a Festival of Trees at the National Guard Armory - - this is a fund-raiser for United Way.
  - b. We are hosting all of the Mississippi Business School deans on December 2.
  - c. On December 11, the College of Business will have a holiday luncheon and everyone is invited.
- Dean Myers reported
  - a. On Thursday at McCool Hall, we will have our last speaker for the Institute for Humanities.
  - b. Arts and Sciences will have a reception in our office, date and time forthcoming.
  - c. We will have a reception at the tree in the lobby of Allen Hall.
  - d. Dean Myers attended a conference for the Council for Colleges of Arts and Sciences in Portland recently and was able to share information regarding his EDGE project.
- Rick Kaminski for Dean Hopper reported
  - a. This evening is the Billy Joe Cross Inaugural event for the Advisory Council.
  - b. We have three searches underway in the college.
  - c. Our graduate students just returned from a wildlife meeting in Miami.
- Registrar Stokes reported
  - a. Final grades for fall semester opens on Monday.
  - b. We are getting ready for commencement and have asked for ushers from each college. Dates for graduation are December 12 and 13.
  - c. CAPP progress report is on Friday, November 21 at 11:00 at Etheredge third floor conference room.
- Dean Blackburn reported that the College of Education external funding is \$600,000 over what it was last year at this time.
- Julie Fulgham reported that Institutional Research will contact each department regarding assessment plans. Each one will be reviewed.
- Dean West reported that a new person has been hired to head the construction program and he will be here on January 2.
- Dean Rajala reported
  - a. Tommy Stevenson has been chosen President Elect of a national organization for program directors for minority programs in engineering.
  - b. William M. J. Hill received Hilton undergraduate scholarship.