

Deans Council Minutes
November 19, 2007

Members present: Peter Rabideau, chairman; Richard Blackburn, Donna Clevinger, Frances Coleman, Jerry Gilbert, George Hopper, Gary Myers, David Nagel, Bill Person, Al Rankins, Lynne Richardson, Glenn Steele, Lynn Reinschmiedt (for Vance Watson), and Jim West. Also present were: Kirk Schulz, Mark Binkley, Butch Stokes, Julie Fulgham, Mitzy Johnson and Mike Rackley.

Dr. Rabideau welcomed Professor David Nagel, who replaces Walter Diehl as Vice President of the Faculty Senate.

1. Academic Operating Policies:
 - Annual Reviews of Faculty: Associate Deans Council passed this AOP in August, Deans Council talked about it in September, and we are bringing it back for action today. A motion was made to approve the policy, and it was unanimously approved. The policy will now go back to Faculty Senate for review.
 - AOP 30.05 - Internet Domain Names and Services at Mississippi State University: Associate Deans Council approved this with the added information as suggested by Mike Rackley. There was a motion to approve, and it was unanimously approved.
2. 2 + 2 Programs: Dr. Gilbert and Dr. Rankins led a discussion concerning 2 + 2 agreements with Hinds and East Mississippi Community Colleges. Reginald Sykes at IHL encourages institutions to do this. We met with Hinds CC. Our handout lists the eight initial programs serving as our trial run, which are renewable in four years. We will look at other possible 2 + 2 programs. These must go through regular approval steps. Official agreements must have the President and Legal Counsel approval.
3. Course Redesign: Dr. Rabideau and others attended a workshop organized by IHL last week. Grants (up to \$50,000) will be available, primarily for math domains. Since MSU already has a math domain, we could request funds for redesign in areas other than the math domain. For more information, visit the website <http://www.thencat.org>. All proposals will be screened before submission.
4. Community Colleges: Mississippi Provosts discussed the Franklin College issue and equivalents. Franklin College accepts all technical courses. In many cases these course are not what we require in our core curriculum. Some IHL institutions are teaching 3000 level courses at the community colleges.
5. Textbook Recommendations: Dr. Rabideau distributed copies of slides concerning the issue regarding a common set of textbooks. This may be an issue we need to give some attention. Dr. Gilbert says the cost of textbooks is affected by several things. After discussion, Dean Coleman said she would contact Barnes and Noble concerning their donating to the Library a copy of

textbooks for popular courses. For a future Deans Council meeting, we will invite Barnes and Noble to visit with us to discuss some issues.

6. Other Items:

- Dr. Rabideau reported that at the September IHL meeting on their campus, Ole Miss reported that they are seriously underfunded and have inequity issues that need to be addressed. Board members took that seriously. At MSU, we are concerned about enrollment growth without additional support. Formula funding was never implemented. An upcoming meeting will be for discussion of equity issues. President Foglesong mentioned this at a recent Faculty Senate meeting.
- Dr. Rabideau has been contacted by "Inside Higher Education" regarding package deals for job advertisements. If you are interested, let Dr. Rabideau know.
- On November 26, the President has invited all deans to a meeting, with Mark Binkley and Donna Clevinger as speakers regarding their planning documents. Julie Fulgham will also present slides.
- Dean Myers reported that:
 - a) Arts and Sciences is implementing a new software to track documents and paperwork and will be happy to share with the deans in the future;
 - b) Debbie Beard from Chemistry will be handling course redesign within the college;
 - c) We are still working on fifth year M.A. initiative. We do have students doing a fast track into the M.A. program.
- Dean Blackburn reported that last week we received official notification of continuing accreditation from NCATE.
- Dean Clevinger reported that MSU-Meridian recently experienced their first fire drill in the building, built in 1992.
- Mark Binkley reported that we have two new Masters level programs approved by IHL, within Arts and Sciences.
- Dr. Nagel inquired when a decision will be made regarding a graduate dean. Dr. Rabideau responded that we do not know.
- Dean Person reported that we have scheduled the graduate teaching assistant workshop for the spring.
- Butch Stokes reported:
 - a) Next week the summer and fall 2008 master schedule packets will be distributed. We will be faced with challenges of closed building and re-locating class sections.
 - b) We are continuing to work on the implementation of master scheduling management system.
 - c) Final grades will have opportunity for input similar to mid-term grade.
- Julie Fulgham reported that her office will attempt to get data to the deans today regarding enhancements with recruiting and enrollment, showing number of applications and number admitted.