

Deans Council Minutes

April 17, 2006

Members present: Peter Rabideau, chairman; Robert Cooper (for Gregg Boring), Frances Coleman, Sara Freedman, Jerry Gilbert, George Hopper, Richard Blackbourn, Phil Oldham, Nancy Reichert, Kirk Schulz, Lynn Reinschmiedt (for Vance Watson), Lee Weiskopf, Jim West, and Peter Wood. Also present were: Mark Binkley, Charles Guest, Mike Rackley and Colin Scanes.

1. AOP 12.30 -- Developmental Studies
This AOP has been revised to make it consistent with the program. This policy is IHL-driven and has been approved by the Associate Deans Council. There was a motion to approve as written. This was approved unanimously as submitted.
2. Dr. Gilbert reported that the President sent out an e-mail last week concerning the new policy on foreign travel. The Deans were unaware of the e-mail. Foreign travel requests will no longer go to IHL for approval. The policy on our web-site will be reworded to reflect that change. The University President is the final approver. We will still need the advanced approval.
3. Dr. Rabideau reported that he had a meeting with department heads and discussed several items:
 - a. A 5% salary adjustment is anticipated. We assume more information will be forthcoming after next week's Board meeting to be held at MUW campus.
 - b. We must be very careful in looking at salary adjustments and not just look at most recent productivity. This must be done as equitably and fairly as possible.
 - c. It is important to look at equity issues. This is the opportunity to handle equity issues.
 - d. When we know more, guidelines will be issued by the Provost's office.
 - e. Dr. Rabideau said he believes all IHL institutions are asking for tuition increases.
 - f. Carson Cook came to the Department Heads' meeting to talk about offer letters. If we advertise for someone with a PhD, the person hired must have that degree by August 15, or the offer is not valid. A waiver is a waiver of law - - advertised one way and hired in another.
 - g. Dr. Rabideau stated that we are also revising our form offer letter to clean up some language regarding publications and grants. A new example should be on our web-site this week.
 - h. The document dealing with Biological Sciences is not complete. We have decided to focus on the LSBI Director, and we have initiated that search. We hope to move quickly on this. Curricular issues can be looked at out of the Office of Academic Affairs.
4. Dr. Rabideau led a discussion concerning visitors' impression of our campus, lack of outside artwork on campus, art gallery location, possible McComas Hall facelift, etc. When a team of any kind comes to our campus, we need to make a better impression on them. Dr. Rabideau is willing to pursue identifying funds for needed improvements to McComas Hall. Dean West will look closely at the building.
5. Vice President Scanes reported the following:
 - a. For the first nine months of the year, our awards are up by 9% or \$10 million.
 - b. According to the *Chronicle of Higher Education* we slipped in published version of Carnegie ranking to second tier. In order to move to the next level, we need about

40 more doctoral students graduating each year. We also need to work on retention.

- c. We have had a reorganization of the Office of Graduate Studies. We have relocated one staff member. We have also named Rita Burrell as Associate Director of Graduate Studies. Bill Person can pay particular attention to recruiting and retention of African American students in graduate education. Last year graduate student numbers were up 2-3%.
6. Other Items:
- a. Jerry Gilbert said we have had two faculty seminars, with Noel Polk and Roger King as speakers. The third of these intellectual opportunities is scheduled for April 27 at 5:00 PM at the Bryan Building. Rachel McCann will speak and the seminar will be followed by a wine and cheese social. We hope for a good turnout next week.
 - b. Nancy Reichert stated that she will be sending out a request for Associate Deans and Department Heads to provide information on their programs and initiatives for mentoring junior faculty. We also need lists of all awards for 2005-06, as well as a list of Fellows and Academy members. We will highlight these on our website.
 - c. Peter Wood reported that President Foglesong will attend the roundtable on graduate education on April 29.
 - d. Kirk Schulz reported that Sarah Rajali will be the new Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Head and also the first female endowed chairholder at the university, beginning in December.
 - e. Sara Freedman said we had a successful series of lectures with SeverCorr. We will have a tour of the plant on Wednesday and anyone interested in this should contact Dean Freedman. The next phase of the renovation of McCool Hall will begin soon -- work will begin on first and second floors. Location for classes for the summer will change. After that, the concentration will be on the addition to McCool.
 - f. Lynn Reinschmiedt stated that the date for the groundbreaking of the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Building will be announced this week, and the tin gym will be removed soon.
 - g. George Hopper announced a distinguished lecture series to begin next Monday at 1:30, with Dr. Jerry Jackson (former Biological Sciences Professor at MSU) as the key note speaker. That is Monday at Tully Auditorium at 1:30.
 - h. Richard Blackburn reported on the recent groundbreaking for the new band and choral facility. Dr. Brenda Thames will be doing a research seminar for faculty -- Dr. Blackburn distributed a flyer and invited all to attend.
 - i. Phil Oldham said Arts and Sciences just finished a successful series of Institute for Humanities external lectures. Last week was poet, Dr. Ed Hurst. We hope to have a series of Pulitzer Prize winners next year. Through the Institute for Humanities, grants are available and all humanities areas are welcome to apply for these competitive grants. Dr. Rabideau suggested that we might host a luncheon for speakers to interact with community people also.
 - j. Jim West reported that an architect came to Jackson last week and we took 100 students to Jackson for that. Almost 400 people attended the lecture.