

**DEANS COUNCIL
MINUTES
January 6, 2003**

Present: George Verrall (chair), Wayne Bennett, Phil Bonfanti, Brad Carter, Frances Coleman, Sam Foster, Sara Freedman, Nick Nichols, Phil Oldham, Sara Peters, Linda Pote, Ruth Prescott, George Rent, Roy Ruby, John Thomson. Also present were Charles Lee, Butch Stokes, Julie Fulgham, Charles Guest, Mike Rackley, Leslie Bauman, and Walter Diehl.

I. Dr. Lee's agenda items:

- Dr. Lee wished everyone a happy new year and said we are working on the 125th year celebration. Walter Diehl will mention more about celebration later in this meeting.
- We are a bit more optimistic concerning the likelihood of no mid-year cut this year. We have encumbered funds to make up the 5%, the figure being about \$3.5 million. If there are no cuts, this money could be used on campus. We will not know this for sure until March or so.
- Over the last several weeks, a number of individuals have been raising awareness on the degree of damage done to higher education during the successive years of budget cuts.
- Just prior to the holidays, Rep. McCoy called presidents of senior institutions and community colleges together to say he wants to lead a strong effort to advance higher education in the state next year. He asked each of us for a plan for moving parts of higher education funding levels back up to where they should be. He used the term "world class". We will work on our part of that in the coming months.
- The Speaker of the House will not run this year and we do not know who will be the speaker. Two of the front-runners are Mississippi State graduates
- On Tuesday, there will be a press announcement concerning the commissioner. Layzell is leaving in June and going to Kentucky. Tomorrow, his replacement will be identified.
- We can conclude that the Board will become more and more aggressive about performance issues. Consolidation of computer services was strongly opposed by the five smaller institutions, but was approved unanimously by the Board. The management report we have been working on for two years is another indication of the Board's intent to more closely monitor the performance of the institutions in the system.
- Charles Lee, Leslie Bauman, George Verrall, Robert Phillips, and George Rent attended the SACS meeting in San Antonio in December.
- The Vice President for Research position will soon be advertised.
- Facilities: Incubator building is underway. The MSU portion of CAVS is underway at Canton. Landscape Architecture occupied its new building over the weekend. Another group will move into the vacated modular buildings. Montgomery is still undergoing renovation. The bond funds for renovation of the Student Union are in MSU's request

this session. Funds are being sought for a new facility for Ag and Bio Engineering and Phase 2 of Veterinary Diagnostic Class.

- We can expect to have one or two more visits from NCAA investigators to follow up on some questions raised in earlier visits.
- Complimented Nick Nichols and his people for a great commencement service – conferring degrees for the first time on-site in Meridian. Nichols was the commencement speaker.

II. Walter Diehl said that 2003 will be the 125th anniversary of the University. The anniversary will be celebrated January through December. Dr. Diehl distributed a logo that has been approved by the committee. A downloadable version will be available soon. One subcommittee (chaired by Sandra Harpole) is interested in bringing internationally prominent speakers to campus. Please solicit input from your units to see who they would like to see on campus (scientists and non-scientists). We want to draw from existing resources from units to fund these speakers.

III. Dr. Verrall thanked the Deans for their support over the past year.

- If there are recurring funds available, we will have to determine how to use those funds. Long-term goal is to reach a point where the Colleges have control of your budget.
- Dr. Verrall needs the deans to provide the following information:
 1. Estimated start-up money needed for new faculty.
 2. Estimated recruiting costs. We will see if Daniel Bryant can help with this.
- We have a memo concerning foreign travel ready to go out. Persons on the payroll at MSU cannot travel outside the continental U.S. without the governor's permission. We continue to receive "after-the-fact" travel requests. Foreign travel requests MUST be approved in advance. When you receive this memo, please share the information with your units.
- We are in the process of a second space formula analysis process for Business and Industry. We are analyzing our use of space on campus.

IV. Phil Bonfanti is serving as Interim Director of Continuing Education. Is it time to consider whether to merge the agriculture unit and the Continuing Education unit to gain some financial and consolidation benefits? Verrall will find a time when the deans can meet and discuss this. He will get a draft proposal ready. We will need to also include Daniel Bryant in the discussion.

V. *Summer On-line* is a new initiative to bring together all efforts to deliver courses on-line during summer. This is a marketing effort. Bonfanti stated that he is meeting with each dean to discuss this.

VI. Dr. Verrall said Dr. Carter will be retiring at the end of February, and will be on leave the month of February. Three main projects he is working on are: Data management process; Instructional technology; and Digital campus initiative.

VII. Other items:

1. Jackson State University will host the National Science Foundation Day and will send invitations. Jonathan Pote will contact each of you and invite your people to this program. The date is January 16th.
2. There is a proposal from the Student Body requesting a fall break. We will solicit input from Faculty Senate before making a decision. The calendar committee recommends Thanksgiving week for fall break. Bennett mentioned the Monday and Tuesday of election week. Verrall will share the committee's letter and proposal.
3. Another Student Body issue is final exams being scheduled for Monday through Friday without weekend splitting exams up.
4. Dr. Rent reminded the deans that the deadline is the end of January for information on courses not taught for the past 4-5 years. These courses total about 600.
5. Continuing Education Seminar for the Treasurer of Mississippi, Women in Finance, got good reviews.
6. Dr. Liam Lightly will become the new department head in Forest Products on January 16th. Steve Bullard will be Director of the Furniture Institute.
7. Dean Bennett reported that we started teaching in McCain this morning.
8. Dean Coleman reported that the ad for President of MSU appeared on 1/3 and will appear again on 1/10.
9. Dean Nichols said that bids for opera house abatement of asbestos will be opened this month.
10. Dean Thomson said he is making an offer for a new department head, and had three really outstanding candidates. We received the keys to the new poultry diagnostic lab. We are renovating a large lab for Dr. Jan Chambers to accommodate the activities under her new, large grant.
11. Dr. Bauman said they have distributed the final draft of the SACS report. We are not in the final executive review and will go to press on January 20. Please send your comments soon.
12. Some planning forms this year were incomplete; some were never received. This is important. Every program must have some measure.
13. Promotion and Tenure documents are due in the Office of the Provost by January 10. If you need to talk about weak or marginal cases, feel free to do so.