

## **Deans Council Minutes February 3, 2003**

Members present: George Verrall, chairman; Wayne Bennett, Frances Coleman, Sam Foster, Sara Freedman, Nick Nichols, Phil Oldham, Sara Peters, Linda Pote, Ruth Prescott, Roy Ruby, John Thomson, and Jerome Gilbert (for Vance Watson. Also present were: Charles Lee, Butch Stokes, Julie Fulgham, Charles Guest, Mike Rackley, Phil Bonfanti, Leslie Bauman and Carson Cook.

1. Dr. Lee's topics:

- A meeting is scheduled for Friday with Dr. Lee, Dr. Verrall and the deans to discuss key issues relative to the future.
- Dr. Lee gave an update on budget issues.
- The Spring General Faculty meeting will be held next week.
- Joe Farris is working on an update on the 21st Leadership Document, taking into consideration the comments received.
- We are approaching closure on targets for capital campaign.
- Enrollment and recruitment are important. Please insure that good prospects are contacted to demonstrate sincere interest.
- The Provost search will begin very shortly. Faculty Senate will elect six members of the search committee, and we will complete the committee with other appointments. We will employ a head-hunter organization to handle this, in order to expedite the search.
- Dr. Gilbert asked about access to student application data and Dr. Verrall said we will check on that. Ruth Prescott said this falls under Dr. Abraham's office.
- Retaining good people is also important. If you can make a case that they are exceptional, let us try to find a way to keep them here. Deans must be willing to help with this.
- It is premature to think about raises for this year. Tuition raises are unlikely this year.
- We have no plans to extend the early retirement option again this year.
- Admission standards and Ayers case may be affected by the NCAA entrance requirements.

2. Dr. Verrall introduced Carson Cook, Director of Diversity and Equity Programs, who spoke to the Deans Council concerning his office working with offices on campus. This office was formerly the Office of Affirmative Action.

3. Dr. Verrall items:

- Distributed to the deans copies of the Mission Statements and the IHL Management Report. If others would like copies, we will be glad to provide them.
- We have located a modest amount of funds for reimbursement for recruiting.
- Deans collectively asked for \$3.5 million for start-up costs. Funds have not been identified for this, so we should follow the normal process used in the past.

- After discussion concerning the value of a professorship, the deans approved \$500,000 minimum to establish a professorship.
  - We will approve final exams to be scheduled Monday through Friday, with no break in the middle. The number of exams scheduled during a day will not change.
  - Students held election on Thursday concerning choices for fall break. Diehl, Wiseman and Verrall will then meet to make a recommendation to the President. The options were the week of Thanksgiving or a long weekend in October.
  - University of Mississippi will propose altering their academic calendar to have a mid-winter semester in January, thereby shortening their spring and fall semester by two weeks.
  - Parking, landscaping and communications must be built in the cost of any new building.
  - Flagged programs:
    - (1) We have proposals for programs: B.S. in Religion (new) and Joint degree with Alcorn and Forestry. However, the Board will not review new programs until next summer.
    - (2) There are academic programs that are flagged, but the Board will focus on graduate programs and undergraduate programs that are not productive at this time.
  - We have completed a study of space in the College of Agriculture and are currently doing a study in Business and Industry. We must justify space.
  - A letter will go out to deans and department heads about quality. We must establish for ourselves “what is progress” and indicators of a quality college.
  - A memo will go out concerning unsatisfactory performance and the definition of satisfactory.
  - The Deans need to think about the qualities they want in a provost, background, etc.
4. Other items:
- Dr. Bauman said the final version of the SACS report is now on the web-site. We request electronic planning documents.
  - A motion was made to give our new President a vote of confidence and thank him for his willingness to take on this responsibility.