

**Deans Council Minutes**  
**January 8, 2002**

PRESENT: George Verrall, Wayne Bennett, Brad Carter, Frances Coleman, Walter Diehl, Sam Foster, Sara Freedman, Dennis Mitchell, Phil Oldham, Ruth Prescott, George Rent, Roy Ruby, Clay Taylor, John Thomson, Lynn Reinschmiedt (for Vance Watson), and Jim West. Also present were: Larry Dobbs, Julie Fulgham, Charlie Guest, and Mike Rackley.

Dr. Verrall called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in 611 Allen Hall.

1. Dr. Verrall announced that he had not asked Dr. Lee to attend the meeting but that Dr. Lee will be invited to future meetings.

Dr. Verrall commented on the budget situation. Based on all predictions, there will be hard times in the future. If possible, Academic Affairs will proceed with commitments previously made. More information concerning the budget will be forthcoming in March. Until a decision is made by the Legislature, the University cannot predict the amount of its share of the state budget reduction. Dr. Verrall asked the deans for their assistance and understanding during this situation.

2. **AOPs for action:**

AOP 12.37 – Academic Advisement. This policy was developed due to a SACS requirement. Motion was made and seconded to approve the policy. AOP 12.37 - Academic Advisement was approved.

AOP 31.11 – Commencement. Discussion of this policy followed. Recommendation was made that the policy be reassigned to a subcommittee to study. Dr. Verrall stated that he would appoint a committee to review the proposed policy and look at options. It was suggested that separate commencement ceremonies be held for each college.

**AOP for review:**

AOP 13.03 – Faculty Responsibilities. This policy has been revised due to a SACS requirement. AOP 13.03 will be brought back for action at next Deans Council meeting.

3. Other Items:

- General Remarks:

Dr. Verrall asked that faculty protect the integrity of the examination process by not leaving the room while exams are being administered. Student workers should not be asked to deliver tests for copying. Dr. Ruby announced that a symposium on academic ethics would be held this semester. The symposium will involve both faculty and students. He also noted that the Math Department could bring academic misconduct charges against any student for cheating during the exam, assuming adequate evidence existed to tie the student to the misconduct. Four students connected with the cheating incident were arrested and were also charged with academic misconduct.

- Budget  
Dr. Verrall presented statistics of the employment situation in Mississippi. Personal income is down; sales tax revenue is down; gaming revenue is down. Dr. Verrall has been asked to prepare information to present to the legislature on which programs have been closed and how many students were affected during the previous two years. Faculty turnover rate was 3% in 1994 and 10% in 2001. The university will have to fund the 2% salary increase in January 2003. He also noted proposed LBO budgets.
- Summit on Higher Education  
Dr. Verrall distributed a brochure concerning the Summit on Higher Education. This is the governor's big project. Outside agencies are willing to work with the State in this process of lifelong learning. Members of the Board of Trustees have talked in support of this project.
- SACS  
Dr. Verrall stated that, as soon as he gets the opportunity, he plans to get up to date on our SACS efforts. He has observed that Dr. Bauman is doing a good job as director of the Self-Study, identifying areas and developing plans of action.
- Dr. Verrall discussed several goals and issues that may be pursued in the coming semester in Academic Affairs, including supplemental pay, travel requests, budget issues, equipment purchases, etc. He has not decided how to proceed on these.
- Dr. Verrall asked for recommendations for a commencement speaker.
- Promotion & tenure recommendations are due in the Provost Office by January 10.
- Dr. Verrall stated that supplemental pay would be discussed later. He does not approve of units providing supplemental pay for employees when some units cannot afford to do the same.
- Dr. Ruby reported on student recruitment. It appears to be going in the right direction. Larry Dobbs reported that enrollment for spring 2002 was up 180 over last spring.
- Dr. Verrall reported the statistics of graduate students who have less than a 3.0 [189], have two or more C's [203], or have grades of D, F, and U [215]. Dr. Rent asked the deans to make sure programs actually follow policy.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.