

**Deans Council Minutes**  
**March 4, 2002**

Members present: George Verrall, chairman; Wayne Bennett, Brad Carter, Frances Coleman, Walter Diehl, Sara Freedman, Dennis Mitchell, Phil Oldham, Ruth Prescott, Roy Ruby, Clay Taylor, John Thomson, Danny Cheatham (for Vance Watson), Jim West and Parker Wiseman. Also present was: Charles Guest.

- I. Dr. Verrall said President Lee is in Jackson, working on Nissan details.
- II. The Student Association has three resolutions to come before the Senate. Parker Wiseman discussed the following:
  - Resolution #21: Library hours – Last semester, students were unable to use the Library on Dead Days. Mrs. Coleman stated that she was looking at the schedule and may increase hours on Sunday to earlier opening hours and some later hours also.
  - Resolution # 15: Dead Days and Reading Days – Students would like to see Reading Day scheduled before exams begin. Some classes have exams on Dead Days. Dr. Ruby stated that these should be reported.
  - Resolution #16: Fall Break --- Students would like to give up days at Christmas Break in order to get a Fall Break. Parker Wiseman discussed the fall break at Ole Miss.
  - Invitations are being mailed for the “State of Student Association Address” coming up on March 19 at 6:00 PM at the Wise Center.
- III. Academic Operating Policies:
  - AOP 10.10: Physical Education and Recreational Facilities  
Move to abolish AOP 10.10 – which is duplicated in the Student Affairs policies. No discussion, approved without objection.
  - AOP 13.03: Faculty Responsibilities  
After discussion, the Deans Council decided to return this policy to Academic Affairs for changes.
  - Ruth Prescott said she is reviewing current interpretations of the AOP on residency requirements.
- IV. Other Items:
  - Interruptible Power: Dr. Verrall led a discussion concerning an upcoming contract for interruptible power. The savings realized would be about \$1.5 to \$2 million per year. There would be a generator back-up and the campus as a whole would not know the difference when a change is made from TVA to generator.
  - Starkville School District has produced a video and a brochure highlighting the Starkville School System. If you are interested in these, the superintendent’s office will supply them.

- Promotion and Tenure: Departmental and college Promotion and Tenure documents should be reviewed by Charlie Guest. They can be more strict, but not less strict than the institution policy.
- Student evaluation of faculty teaching: There is policy on this, and this is also a SACS issue. Dr. Verrall asked the deans to let him know if we have departments who do not do evaluations.
- New Faculty Orientation: Think about whether we should begin this orientation again. The bus tours were good and very worthwhile.
- Departmental budgets: The obligation of department head is to share departmental budgets and how they are allocated.
- When we get into the final stage of the search process for the new president, Dr. Verrall believes that would be the time to convene a study committee to look at the Provost search. This would enable us to get the search started as soon as a new President feels comfortable. Dr. Verrall asked for the deans' input.
- Frances Coleman said that she has not heard from IHL with information about timelines for Presidential Search.
- Wood Junior College is in serious long-term financial difficulty. The accrediting body has informed them that they are no longer accredited, and an appeal has been filed. A hearing is scheduled for March 13 in Atlanta. Some decisions will have to be made concerning accepting transfer students from Wood.
- Some things that have come to the Office of the Provost and we are working on:
  1. Grade appeal process form
  2. Letter of hiring
  3. Promotion and Tenure
  4. Budget
- Next month, we will have an update about the research library. What kind of things do we need to do as a university? Also, Dr. Verrall will update on Phi Beta Kappa and hiring faculty.
- We are starting Phase I of redeveloping the university master plan. The architect will be scheduled to meet with groups at a later date.
- The IHL has asked for a mission statement for MSU.
- George Rent will begin visiting with units concerning flagged academic programs very shortly. We must develop our defenses. We will issue a report to Deans as well as to Faculty Senate concerning these issues
- Lab fees: Please be sure you have reported your lab fees. We must know what we are collecting and where it is going.
- AACSB accrediting team was on campus recently. They felt very positive when they left campus. We feel confident our accreditation is not in jeopardy. Dean Freedman thanked the deans for their support and participation.
- The Library will host two workshops for graduate coordinators.

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- Dean Bennett reported that the search committee for the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences is making good progress. We have identified a good pool of applicants.
- E-Week was good and a successful operation.
- Dean Taylor says the Division of Continuing Education is working on two proposals (1) to establish an OSHA training center at MSU and (2) Homeland Security training at Stennis Center.
- Dean Freedman reported that the search for the Dean of the College of Education is underway and an ad should be going out in the next week or two. Please let people know about this if you know of good prospects for this position.