Deans Council Minutes
September 9, 2002

Members present: George Verrall, chairman; Wayne Bennett, Brad Carter, Frances
  Coleman, Sam Foster, Sara Freedman, Nick Nichols, Phil Oldham, Sara Peters, Linda
  Pote, Ruth Prescott, George Rent, Roy Ruby, John Thomson, Lynn Reinschmiedt (for
  Vance Watson), and Jim West. Also present were: Charles Lee, Butch Stokes, Julie
  Fulgham, Charles Guest, Mike Rackley, Joe Sullivan, and Leslie Bauman.

1. Dr. Lee's agenda items:
    - Mr. Davis Wade, the main provider for the stadium expansion, was buried today.
    - The beginning of the semester has been challenging, but went very smoothly.
      We are off to a good start, and possibly with the best freshman class in the history
      of the university.
    - We are interviewing for Vice President of Student Affairs now. This is a very
      important position in the university.
    - We hope to close the search on the Affirmative Action officer soon.
    - The mission statement has been submitted for the second reading at the Board
      meeting in September. This will be included in the self-study report -- self-
      study visit is next spring.
    - The Faculty Senate sponsored roundtable is scheduled for September 21 and the
      subject will be enrollment. We need to define our enrollment goals and
      admission goals and our standard of freshman class. A task force is looking at
      this and the faculty roundtable will address this.
    - Initial budget hearing is coming up on September 25. We believe we are in
      pretty good shape for a possible cut this year.
    - In regard to the Thursday night game, the attitude of Athletics and academic
      classes is better this year. The Athletic Director will bring future Thursday night
      games to senior staff before making a commitment. Dr. Verrall stated that the
      university will remain open. Individual professors will manage their classes and
      offices will handle early dismissal on an individual basis.
    - The general faculty meeting is in a couple of weeks.
    - Tickets for the Auburn game will be provided by the Athletic Department at the
      Welcome Back party.
2. Dr. Joe Sullivan, chairman of Ad Hoc Committee for Student Computer Requirements,
    distributed a handout and led a discussion concerning preliminary findings of this
    committee.
    - Discussion points: We need to identify benefits. About 90% of students already
      own a computer. We need to talk with similar institutions about how they have
      handled this. This is a status report, no conclusion yet.
    - Dr. Sullivan distributed a draft of a survey for students with results of a small
      sample of students. Input to the committee is encouraged, and suggested
      revisions to the survey are welcomed. Question #3 should be "Do you have a
      computer for your sole use? Do you have it with you at the university?"

- Discussion: We should address the financial ability to have a computer. This would increase the cost of education, but this can be added to the cost of education one-time. We do not believe that community colleges require computers. We need to think about faculty development, the need to provide faculty training and support, centralized instructional support services. How do we cope with getting everyone up to speed on software issues?
- The Instructional Technology Advisory Committee, a standing faculty committee, will review the recommendations of the ad hoc committee.
- Dr. Ruby suggested that Enrollment Services needs a representative on the committee.

3. Other Items:
- Dr. Verrall stated that we have the updated salary budget on a CD. If the Deans need a copy, write a letter to Dr. Verrall, stating that need and he will approve your picking it up from Wayne Bland. This information will be available in the Library in January. The printed budget was approved by the Board. Dr. Verrall asked that the information not be distributed widely until January, 2003.
- The President reminds us as we recruit to be very conscious of high ACT students. Enrollment Services will make applicant ACT scores available to deans.
- We will request copies of annual reviews of faculty members who have received an unsatisfactory in the past two years in one of more of the three categories. We must provide a report to the Board in October dealing with post-tenure review. Post-tenure review will come before the General Faculty later this month.
- Roundtable on September 21 will discuss enrollment. Where do we want to go enrollment-wise?
- We are continuing to put together information of financial needs. We have no available recurring money for the next 24 months. We have a little travel money, GAE, and wage money.
- We anticipate a mid-year budget cut and have set aside funds to cover that cut. Additional cuts would mean students may get out of sequence in their classes and may need to attend school longer.
- We need to improve the diversity of our faculty and senior administration, particularly women and African American. We should also send a positive message to prospective faculty about trailing spouses.
- Dennis Prescott will send you information about planning stages of capital campaign. See if your priorities have changed and we will talk individually about these.
- Students have indicated that USM will have a fall break. If USM and UM do this, we will probably have to do the same thing.
- Some current students do not want exams to be broken up over a weekend. They prefer Monday through Saturday exams. We will look at USM and UM exam schedule and their fall break.
- We will also look at lab fees. We will see where we are and how we want to deal with lab fees.

- We are working on faculty titles -- and struggling with "adjunct". We all use that differently.

4. Brad Carter distributed information and gave an update on Information Technology. Carter asked for feedback on the IT vision statement and discussed the three strategic initiatives (digital campus, instructional technology, and institutional data management). We have a new advisory group, the Information Technology Advisory Group, and each dean and vice president have appointed members. The group met last week and identified the top IT issues. We would like for each college to rank the top eight on the list, or add some issues if you choose. Please prioritize the issues.