

Deans Council
March 7, 2011
1:30 PM
Allen 611

Members Present: Jerry Gilbert (chair), Mark Binkley, Richard Blackbourn, Timothy Chamblee, Harry Llull (for Frances Coleman), Paul Grimes (for Louis Dawkins), Jerry Emison, Halston Hales, Rhett Hobart, Robert Cooper (for Kent Hoblet), Rick Kaminski (for George Hopper), Joan Lucas, Dennis Mitchell, Gary Myers, Mike Rackley, Sarah Rajala, Lynn Reinschmiedt, Peter Ryan, Butch Stokes, Jim West.

Others Present: Melvin Ray.

Minutes taken by: Martha Thomas.

1. A suggested revision of the minutes of the February 28, 2011 meeting was:
 - a. Changing item 2d to: “Dr. Gilbert stated that if he has not spoken with the Deans about their respective college’s promotion and tenure applications, that there were no problems with them.”
2. Upon a motion by Gary Myers and second by Melvin Ray, the minutes of the February 28, 2011, meeting were approved with the above correction.
3. Announcements:
 - a. Jerry Gilbert suggested moving Deans Council to 3:00 PM on March 21 and April 4 to accommodate the open sessions of the interviews for the Shackouls Honors College Dean and Associate Provost candidates.
 - b. Dr. Gilbert stated that on March 7 an e-mail was sent out regarding U.S. Professors of the Year, an award administered by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Support of Education. Rick Travis was honored in 2010 as the Mississippi Professor of the Year. If a college has a nominee, please coordinate through the Office of the Provost.
 - c. Dr. Gilbert stated that he hoped the Deans have a good spring break.
 - d. March 26 is the snow day make-up day. According to Peter Ryan, more classes are utilizing this day than had been anticipated.
 - e. Rhett Hobart thanked the Deans Council for their support over the past year in his role as Vice President of the Student Association. Mr. Hobart introduced Halston Hales who is the incoming Vice President and will join Deans Council meetings. Mr. Hales stated that he is excited about participating in Deans Council.
4. Digital Measures:
 - a. The topic of Digital Measures was previously discussed at Deans Council (February 14). Dr. Gilbert asked whether Digital Measures would be something that the Deans would support in recording faculty productivity.
 - b. Gary Myers stated that the issue was variety – the different ways that people do things in the college. This will be an ongoing adjustment, but Dr. Myers did not think that the faculty would be against it.
 - c. Paul Grimes stated that on February 14, he demonstrated how Digital Measures worked for the College of Business. The College of Business is beginning to run accreditation reports through Digital Measures. The challenge is keeping faculty motivated to input their information. Once

the annual faculty review policy is in place, a report will be created to facilitate this process.

- d. Richard Blackburn stated that he encountered a similar system while at Clemson University. The problems he observed were misuse of information and not having a specified date by which information should be entered.
 - e. Dr. Grimes stated that the data in Digital Measures is only “real-time” as long as faculty keep it updated.
 - f. Rick Kaminski stated that he could not respond for George Hopper, but that the College of Forest Resources currently has an internal system to track faculty productivity.
 - g. Robert Cooper stated that the College of Veterinary Medicine tried to utilize a similar system years ago but could not succeed in getting faculty to input data regularly.
 - h. Dr. Myers suggested that the university be proactive in addressing problems that come up when implementing Digital Measures.
 - i. Mike Rackley stated that it seems like a good system with a straightforward process.
 - j. Dr. Gilbert concluded that there appeared to be overall support for the implementation of using Digital Measures.
5. Other Items:
- a. Dr. Ryan recently sent out a reminder about the diversity recruitment workshop featuring Renee Baker. Dr. Ryan asked that if Deans are unable to attend to please identify individual(s) in your unit who could attend. While the focus of the workshop is faculty recruitment, the topic applies to all.
 - b. Mr. Rackley sent out an e-mail on March 7 regarding the faculty teaching credentials process. Questions about this process should be directed to Timothy Chamblee. Faculty will be contacted later if transcripts are needed.
 - i. There was discussion about paperless forms. Mr. Rackley stated that Information Technology Services is working towards having a paperless form available during the summer.
 - ii. There was discussion about SACS requirements for degree programs as they relate to the portion of the form that asks faculty to specify two primary areas in which they are qualified to teach at MSU. Dr. Gilbert asked that faculty put as many areas as needed.