

Deans Council
February 27, 2012
3:00 PM
Allen 611

Members Present: Jerry Gilbert (chair), Richard Blackburn, Steven Brown, Tim Chamblee, Pat Matthes (for Frances Coleman), Lou D'Abramo, Jerry Emison, Halston Hales, Mark Lawrence (for Kent Hoblet), Walter Taylor (for George Hopper), Brandon Jolly (for Joan Lucas), Gary Myers, Mike Rackley, Sarah Rajala, Peter Ryan, Chris Snyder, Butch Stokes, David Lewis (for Jim West).

Others Present: Teresa Gammill, Judy Spencer.

Minutes Taken By: Martha Thomas.

1. Suggested revisions of the minutes of the February 6, 2012, meeting were:
 - a. Correcting the capitalization of Halston Hales' name.
 - b. Changing item 4n to: "Jerry Emison stated that he is supportive of those means that will give the faculty member a clear picture on how he/she is performing in the classroom."
2. Upon a motion by Gary Myers and second by Lou D'Abramo, the minutes of the February 6, 2012, meeting were approved unanimously with the above corrections.
3. Announcements:
 - a. Jerry Gilbert announced that the Academic Administrator Feedback Survey is accepting responses until midnight Monday, February 27, 2012. Dr. Gilbert stated that it is important for people to be able to provide feedback about their Deans, Associate Deans, and Department Heads.
 - b. Dr. Gilbert announced that MSU will host a Diversity Conference March 1-2, 2012. The conference will feature, among others, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski of the University of Maryland.
 - c. Dr. Gilbert stated that he is continuing to work on promotion and tenure applications and that he anticipates having his decisions made soon.
 - d. Dr. Gilbert discussed the recent deans meetings with the topics of Academic Outreach and Continuing Education (AOCE) and promotion and tenure. Dr. Gilbert stated that he plans to have more money and authority over distance education programs in the department with AOCE becoming a support unit responsive to the needs of the departments.
4. Academic Operating Policies:
 - a. AOP 12.08 – Requirements for Degrees, Academic Minors, Certificate Programs, and Academic Consortial/Contractual Agreements:
 - i. Peter Ryan explained that the changes in this AOP were made to keep with the requirements for SACS.
 - ii. There was discussion about whether the AOP should explicitly state that agreements should be made with only those institutions that are accredited.
 - iii. Tim Chamblee stated that the wording of the section on Academic Consortial/Contractual Agreements matches that found in SACS standards.

- iv. **Upon a motion by Dr. Ryan and second by Dr. Myers, AOP 12.08 – Requirements for Degrees Academic Minors, Certificate Programs, and Academic Consortial/Contractual Agreements was approved unanimously with no revisions.**
- b. AOP 12.17 – Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start:
 - i. **Upon a motion by Dr. Myers and second by Steve Brown, AOP 12.17 – Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start was approved unanimously with no revisions.**
- c. AOP 12.19 – Undergraduate Academic Amnesty:
 - i. Dr. Myers asked how this AOP compared with similar policies at other universities.
 - ii. Butch Stokes stated that most universities have similar policies with slight differences in the timelines. This policy is designed to help students who may have stopped attending MSU due to poor academic performance. Those students, if approved, would be allowed to return to MSU without the burden of past academic difficulties. Mr. Stokes stated that this AOPs 12.17 and 12.19 have been very effective.
 - iii. **Upon a motion by Dr. Ryan and second by David Lewis, AOP 12.19 – Undergraduate Academic Amnesty was approved unanimously with no revisions.**
- d. AOP 12.20 – Academic Forgiveness:
 - i. Dr. Ryan explained that this policy allows for undergraduate students to retake up to two courses, not to exceed eight credit hours.
 - ii. Halston Hales stated that the Student Association has prepared a resolution in support of an increase in the number of credit hours allowed to be retaken from eight to nine. Several Student Association officer candidates have included this topic in their election platform.
 - iii. Mr. Hales requested from Butch Stokes the percentage of the student body who currently utilizes academic forgiveness for two classes.
 - iv. There was discussion about the utilization of academic forgiveness by those students seeking 4.0 GPA or other honorary academic recognitions.
 - v. Dr. Brown suggested that a rationale be provided for the suggested change.
 - vi. There was discussion of the original language and history of the policy.
 - vii. Dr. Gilbert took a straw vote of whether members of the Deans Council would be supportive of proposed changes. No one indicated support for changing the policy to three courses, up to nine credit hours, with original grades of B, C, D, or F to be allowed. Approximately three indicated support for considering a proposal to change the policy to three courses, up to nine credit hours, with original grades of D or F to be allowed.
 - viii. Dr. D’Abramo suggested adding the word “Undergraduate” to the AOP’s title.
 - ix. The AOP will be considered by Deans Council on a later date.

5. Other Items:
 - a. OP 01.12 – Use of Information Technology Resources:
 - i. Mike Rackley explained that the changes to this policy were developed following a letter sent by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. This letter expressed concern that the policy was too broad and potentially infringed upon freedom of speech.
 - ii. Per a straw vote, the Deans Council indicated that they were in agreement with the policy as written.
 - b. Mr. Stokes stated that the Registrar’s Office is working on an electronic current-term withdrawal process. He anticipates this process to be in place prior to Maymester of 2012.
 - c. Mr. Stokes stated that there will be nine freshman orientation session and 3 transfer orientation sessions.
 - d. Dr. D’Abramo announced that there are two candidates for the position of Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Each candidate will meet with the search committee, staff of the Graduate School office, and the Provost. Dr. D’Abramo stated that he anticipates the selection to occur by the end of March.
 - e. Chris Snyder stated that the Shackouls Honors College is co-hosting Dr. Eric Cline, chair of the Department of Classics and Semitics at George Washington University. Dr. Snyder invited members of the Deans Council to events surrounding Dr. Cline’s visit.
 - f. Dr. Ryan announced that the Office of the Provost will begin soliciting fellows for the Southeastern Conference Academic Consortium Academic Leadership Development Program soon for the 2012-13 academic year.