

**Deans Council Minutes**  
**February 18, 2013**  
**1:30 PM**  
**611 Allen**

Members Present: Jerry Gilbert (chair), Richard Blackbourn, Tim Chamblee, Pat Matthes (for Frances Coleman), Lou D'Abramo, John Dickerson, Greg Dunaway, Jerry Emison, Rich Meiring (for Kent Hoblet), Julia Hodges, George Hopper, Brandon Jolly (for Joan Lucas), Sharon Oswald, Mike Rackley, Sarah Rajala, Peter Ryan, Shelby Sims, Becky Gardner (for Chris Snyder), David Lewis (for Jim West), Park Wynn.  
Others Present: Teresa Gammill, Linda Morse, Judy Spencer, Steve Taylor.  
Minutes Taken By: Martha Thomas.

1. Upon a motion by Greg Dunaway and second by Lou D'Abramo, the minutes of the February 4, 2013, meeting were approved unanimously with no corrections.
2. Announcements:
  - a. Jerry Gilbert welcomed Shelby Sims, vice president elect of the Student Association, to the Deans Council.
  - b. Dr. Gilbert announced that this was Sarah Rajala's last Deans Council meeting. Dr. Gilbert expressed appreciation for her service and invited members of the Deans Council to a reception in her honor to be held at 3:30 PM on Monday, February 18.
  - c. Dr. Gilbert distributed a handout pertaining to Mississippi State University's marketing of undergraduate degree programs which can be completed in three years. Dr. Gilbert expressed appreciation for the College of Business and College of Education for determining which programs in their colleges could be completed within three years. Dr. Gilbert stated that President Keenum was excited about this initiative and encouraged other colleges to determine additional degrees that could be completed within three years, prior to release to the public. Dr. Gilbert asked that relevant information be sent to Nancy Fultz.
3. Blackboard Learn:
  - a. Mike Rackley stated that MSU is in the process of migrating our learning management system to a new product – Blackboard Learn. This topic was heavily discussed and considered by the Instructional Technology Advisory Committee led by Susan Diehl. The goal is for the migration to be complete by Maymester of 2013.
  - b. Mr. Rackley explained that there is a pilot project currently underway where a select number of faculty and students are using Blackboard Learn.
  - c. Mr. Rackley discussed additional products that MSU procured which will enhance the learning experience: Blackboard Collaborate, Blackboard Mobile App, and NBC Learn.
  - d. Linda Morse announced that changes will be made to how people seek help with Blackboard – there is a plan for faculty, staff, and students to call one number. Issues will then be triaged to the various units who would be able to assist.
  - e. Dr. Morse asked that the deans encourage their faculty to attend information sessions being offered now and training sessions which will begin after Spring Break.

4. Other Items:

- a. John Dickerson called attention to the first graduation application deadline which is February 28 with a \$50 fee. Dr. Dickerson reminded the Deans Council of the March 15 deadline for textbook information to be submitted for the fall 2013 semester. Additionally, the summer and fall schedules will be available for departments to proof on March 4.
- b. Dr. Dunaway asked what the reaction was for Parents/Family Weekend. He said that it seemed to be a lot of effort on the part of the colleges for a few number of individuals who visited the colleges. Dr. Gilbert stated that the topic had not yet come up but that it may be something to re-think in the future.
- c. Dr. Gilbert discussed the upcoming Academic Insight events and offered tips for encouraging student enrollment.