

Deans Council Minutes
August 7, 2014
10:00 AM
President's Conference Room, Lee Hall

Members Present: Jerry Gilbert (chair), Steve Brown, Lori Bruce, Tim Chamblee, Frances Coleman, Cody Coyne, Greg Dunaway, Kent Hoblet, Julia Hodges, Ian Munn (for George Hopper), Jason Keith, Sharon Oswald, Mike Rackley, Peter Ryan, Chris Snyder, Jim West.

Others Present: Teresa Gammill, Eric Hill, Brandon Jolly, Judy Spencer, Steve Taylor.

Minutes taken by: Martha Thomas.

1. Jerry Gilbert welcomed the Deans Council to Lee Hall and expressed appreciation for the President's Office for allowing the Deans Council to use the President's Conference Room.
2. Dr. Gilbert announced that Steve Brown would be leaving Mississippi State to become the Dean of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities at the University of West Florida.
3. Upon a motion by Jim West and second by Frances Coleman, the minutes of the July 14, 2014, meeting were approved unanimously with no edits.
4. Announcements:
 - a. Dr. Gilbert announced that the annual department heads meeting would take place Monday, August 11 at 4:00 PM in Rogers Auditorium. Dr. Gilbert stated that an agenda would be distributed by the end of the week.
 - b. Dr. Gilbert announced that the Freshman Convocation would take place Tuesday, August 19 at 4:30 PM in the Humphrey Coliseum. Dr. Gilbert discussed the unintended conflict with classes. Dr. Gilbert stated that the priority is for students to attend class unless the professor releases them to attend the convocation.
 - c. Dr. Gilbert discussed his recent trip to Washington, D.C. for a meeting of Chief Academic Officers and Chief Financial Officers. One of the primary topics of discussion was student success. Dr. Gilbert discussed the importance of making each class meeting a meaningful experience.
 - d. Dr. Gilbert announced that a meeting on the scholarship and evaluation of teaching would be held Thursday, September 4. Dr. Blannie Bowen of Penn State University will be the featured speaker and there will be a panel. Dr. Gilbert stated that he views this as an opportunity for an open discussion on the evaluation of nontraditional teaching. Dr. Gilbert asked that all deans and department heads attend and that he hopes for a good representation of the faculty.
 - e. Dr. Gilbert discussed his plans to host faculty coffee meetings with the Provost which would allow for informal faculty interaction. He stated that this stemmed in part from the review of several faculty exit interviews. He asked the deans for their input; the general consensus was that they were supportive of the idea.
 - f. Dr. Gilbert discussed exploring the idea of giving experiential competency-based credit for past experience or knowledge gained. Dr. Gilbert stated that this has been discussed several times at the national level.

- i. Tim Chamblee stated that SACS now has a policy for governing this issue.
 - ii. Steve Taylor discussed a model where students could test-out of certain coursework based upon past experiences.
 - iii. Chris Snyder discussed AP high school coursework and that some graduate programs require a certain number of composition courses regardless of being exempted from taking the class at the undergraduate level.
 - g. Dr. Gilbert discussed the topic of developing a more Hispanic-friendly culture at MSU.
 - i. Dean West indicated that it would be important to do so for faculty recruitment and retention as well.
 - ii. Greg Dunaway suggested that MSU consider targeted outreach in specific geographic and socioeconomic areas. Dr. Dunaway also stated the importance of diversifying faculty.
 - iii. Lori Bruce stated that the Graduate School is in the process of redesigning its website to allow for translation of the site into different languages.
 - h. Dr. Gilbert discussed a recent meeting with TIAA-CREF and the Council of Graduate Schools where they were very complimentary of the financial literacy program offered at MSU. Dr. Gilbert discussed the importance of informing potential students and faculty of Starkville's low cost of living.
 - i. Judy Spencer stated that there is a map that shows cost of living that HRM utilizes for setting salaries.
- 5. Transition of Entrepreneurship Center:
 - a. Sharon Oswald stated that she was pleased to work with the Office of Research and Economic Development to transition the Entrepreneurship Center (E-Center) to the College of Business.
 - b. Dr. Oswald discussed the growth of entrepreneurship across campus and the need for a dedicated, visible space where students could assemble.
 - c. Dr. Oswald introduced Eric Hill, program manager for the E-Center.
 - d. Mr. Hill gave a PowerPoint presentation on the E-Center and highlighted several companies: SociallyIn, LLC; Nimbus Mobile; and Glittersoft Group, LLC.
 - e. Mr. Hill stated that there are ten office spaces in the Incubator but that many start-ups don't need as much space as is offered in one office.
 - f. Dr. Oswald stated that there is the desire to make this a university-level program and that entrepreneurship touches every department within the College of Business.
 - g. Dr. Oswald stated that there are no current plans to offer a major in entrepreneurship and that any student could minor in the proposed entrepreneurship minor.
- 6. Business Photo System Demo:
 - a. Mike Rackley gave a demonstration of the business photo system which allows employees to opt-in to sharing their business photo with various resources.
- 7. Parent Proxy Access Demo:

- a. Mr. Rackley gave a demonstration of the parent proxy access system which would allow students to permit other individuals to have access to specific information about the student's records.
 - b. Steve Brown asked how the system related to the FERPA waiver. Mr. Rackley stated that the proxy access is a separate but distinct action. Mr. Rackley stated that ITS is working on making the FERPA waiver available online and that discussion has occurred about possibly tying the actions together.
 - c. Dr. Gilbert stated that President Keenum had made this a priority.
 - d. Dr. Dunaway suggested implementing the electronic FERPA waiver first followed by the parent proxy access.
 - e. There was discussion regarding the amount of information being shared with parents.
 - f. There was discussion regarding items to eliminate, including only the course title, midterm grade, final grade, and absences.
 - g. Julia Hodges asked when an electronic FERPA waiver would be available. Mr. Rackley stated that it could occur within a few months.
 - h. Dr. Gilbert stated that this would be treated as a pilot program for the fall semester.
8. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.