

Deans Council Minutes
September 15, 2014
1:30 PM
President's Conference Room, Lee Hall

Members Present: Jerry Gilbert (chair), Terry Jayroe (for Richard Blackbourn), Lori Bruce, Tim Chamblee, Frances Coleman, Cody Coyne, John Dickerson, Greg Dunaway, Mark Lawrence (for Kent Hoblet), Julia Hodges, Wes Burger (for George Hopper), Jason Keith, Sharon Oswald, Allison Pearson, Mike Rackley, Peter Ryan, Chris Snyder, Jim West.

Others Present: Jeremiah Dumas, Jennifer Easley, Katie Echols, Kevin Edelblute, Jane Kinard, Denise Peeples, Steve Taylor.

Minutes taken by: Martha Thomas.

1. Upon a motion by Frances Coleman and second by Jim West, the minutes of the August 18, 2014, meeting were approved unanimously with no edits.
2. Announcements:
 - a. Jerry Gilbert welcomed Allison Pearson to Deans Council who is serving with Julia Hodges as co-interim deans of MSU-Meridian.
 - b. Dr. Gilbert announced the fall 2014 enrollment total of 20,138 students.
 - c. Dr. Gilbert thanked everyone who assisted with Freshman Convocation.
 - d. Dr. Gilbert announced that John Dickerson would begin serving as interim executive director of enrollment services beginning October 1.
 - e. Dr. Gilbert discussed information shared by Rodney Pearson who found that freshmen with a 25-36 ACT with 7+ absences during the fall semester had a 18% graduation rate as compared with those with 0-2 absences having a 80% graduation rate. Dr. Gilbert asked that the deans continue to emphasize absence reporting and class attendance.
 - f. Dr. Gilbert announced the following events:
 - i. September 16 at 2:00 – General Faculty Meeting
 - ii. September 24 – Faculty Coffee with the Provost
 - iii. October 16 – World Food Day – the Dietetic Association is hosting an Empty Bowls fundraising event to benefit local food pantries
 - iv. October 19-21 – African American Studies is hosting a conference on Freedom Summer
3. Visitor Parking:
 - a. Dr. Gilbert stated that he invited Jeremiah Dumas to talk about parking with a focus on visitor parking.
 - b. Mr. Dumas distributed copies of an MSU announcement from August 19 and OP 91.307 – Policies for Traffic Rules and Regulations for the Campus and Streets of Mississippi State University.
 - c. Mr. Dumas explained the previous problem with the visitor parking process in which Parking did not have registration information for visitors parking on campus and thus could not contact a vehicle's owner if there were a problem. The Traffic Committee recommended a change to the policy to address this problem; however, it was not approved.
 - d. Mr. Dumas stated that the OP governing parking has not changed but the internal process on issuing visitor passes has. Visitors can now register online and departments are no longer issued yellow hang tags.

- e. Mr. Dumas stated that there are 160 individuals on every gated lot wait list and that his office wants to make sure that faculty and staff who pay for gated lot access have a place to park in addition to the VIP guests.
 - f. Mr. Dumas asked that his office be contacted when there are special events so that his office can issue parking passes and access where possible. Mr. Dumas stated that there is sometimes difficulty when there are 70+ guests visiting the center of campus.
 - g. Mr. Dumas stated that departments should contact his office for VIP guest parking and that the guest will not have to register online.
 - h. Peter Ryan asked about game day parking. Mr. Dumas stated that his office is not involved with game day parking issues.
 - i. Mr. Dumas discussed the problem with construction impacting parking on campus and stated that at some point the university may not be able to absorb the parking loss created by construction.
4. Tuition Remission Benefits – Graduate Research Assistants:
- a. Kevin Edelblute introduced Jennifer Easley, Jane Kinard, and Denise Peebles and stated that MSU is not currently in compliance with federal regulations with regard to tuition remission for Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) which state that GRAs must be treated consistently regardless of funding source. Currently, about 80% of GRAs are given 100% tuition remission.
 - b. Mr. Edelblute stated that effective fall of 2015, all GRAs will receive 100% tuition remission.
 - c. Mr. Edelblute stated that his office is looking into the possibility of applying this to Graduate Teaching and Service Assistants at a later date.
 - d. Jason Keith asked how this policy would impact those GRAs paid via the 10 fund. Mr. Edelblute stated that tuition benefits will be posted consistently with an individual's payroll distribution.
 - e. There was discussion regarding the possible disparity between GRAs and other graduate assistant types.
5. Debt Statement:
- a. Mr. Edelblute discussed a recent court case that addressed the collection of tuition and fees. Mr. Edelblute stated that the outcome of this case led to the desire to formalizing verbiage regarding the student's responsibility to pay tuition and fees, interest rate (if applicable), collection services, etc. Mr. Edelblute stated that this debt agreement would be included as part of the online registration process starting with the spring 2015 semester.
6. AOP 13.01 – Emeritus Appointments:
- a. Dr. Ryan stated that the Associate Deans Council added language to the policy to state that the request to grant emeritus would originate in the individual's home unit and to state that emeritus status could be revoked if necessary.
 - b. **Dr. Ryan moved that the AOP be accepted as presented. Lori Bruce seconded the motion.**
 - i. Discussion:
 - 1. Tim Chamblee recommended the following edit:
 - a. "Each individual will be reviewed initially by the originating department or home unit in which

emeritus status will reside. A possible recommendation for emeritus appointment will be forwarded through appropriate administrative channels for consideration.”

Martha L. Thomas 10/9/2014 10:18 AM

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2. There was discussion regarding the definition of emeritus and the amount of flexibility inherent in the policy.
 3. Chris Snyder asked whether emeritus status would have to be within an academic department. Dr. Gilbert stated that it would not.
 4. Dr. Gilbert stated that emeritus is an honorary title with no rights or privileges but allows for emeritus faculty to indicate their previous association and current honorary association with the university. Dr. Gilbert stated that one should not use personal reasons to deny emeritus status.
- c. The motion was approved unanimously with the edits above.
7. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:46 PM.