

Deans Council Minutes
March 7, 2016
1:30 PM
Presidents Conference Room, Lee Hall

In attendance: Julia Hodges, Richard Blackburn, Patricia Matthes (for Frances Coleman), John Dickerson, Rick Travis, Scott Willard (for George Hopper), Jason Keith, Brandon Jolly (for Joan Lucas), Sharon Oswald, Mike Rackley, Peter Ryan, Ron McLaughlin (for Kent Hoblet), Jim West, Tim Chamblee, Allison Pearson, Terry Dale Cruse, Brent Fountain (for Anastasia Elder), Hunt Walne
Others present: Cedric Gathings, Teresa Gammill, Judy Spencer, Lynn Reinschmiedt, Hunt Walne (new Student Counsel VP)

Minutes taken by: Lecrisha Nail

1. Upon a motion to accept by Dr. Kent Hoblet and second by Sharon Oswald, the minutes of the February 15, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously with no edits. Agenda items were discussed:
2. Announcements
 - a. Dr. Hodges mentioned finishing P&T and advised using caution going forward regarding early promotion. If they apply for promotion prior to five years of rank, they need to have outstanding record beyond the minimum requirements.
 - b. Dr. Hodges urged the need for faculty to participate in reporting progress grades. She asked the deans to please communicate the importance of this to faculty. The next deadline is March 24.
 - c. Likewise, please encourage faculty to report absences. Dr. Ryan mentioned this is important for Pale Grant Funds.
3. Advice about diversity Hires – Cedric Gathings
 - a. Black Alumni Weekend went really well this past weekend.
 - b. Several alumni asked about the lack of black faculty and staff at MSU. It seemed that a lot of the discussion was about race, but Cedric explained that the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center is here to help promote all minorities and diversity in all areas.
 - c. Contact OIDI for advertising resources
 - i. National Registry of Diverse & Strategic Faculty
 - I. Access to database of minority faculty seeking positions
 - II. They post positions for minority faculty applicants to view
 - d. Make sure the search committees and people conducting interviews are diverse
 - e. Mr. Gathings strongly encourages the deans to reach out to him for help when conducting searches.
 - f. The Holmes center is forming a new minority support group for all minorities
 - g. Dr. Hodges reinforced the need to diversify the pool of applicants. Use resources available to market to minorities.
 - h. Mr. Gathings talked about the recent Hispanic Student Association event. It was a very successful event and it helped him to realize that it doesn't take a lot of effort to host events like this and promote MSU.
4. MSU-Meridian Partnerships – Terry Dale Cruse
 - a. Dr. Cruse mentioned the unique position MSU-Meridian has of offering a four-year university degree at a community college-type environment.
 - b. Ways to strengthen partnerships with community colleges
 - i. Articulation agreement is already in place, but MSU-Meridian would like to narrow that down to a few programs that will carry over to MSU-Meridian

- ii. MSU-Meridian will be hiring advisors to work at various community colleges' admissions staff to help build student relationships.
 - iii. MSU-Meridian want to make the college affordable
 - iv. MSU-Meridian wants to make sure community college credits transfer to MSU Meridian
 - c. Goals for Fall 2016
 - i. MSU-Meridian would like to have at least two partnerships established with community colleges
 - ii. By fall they would like to have two advisors in place at community colleges
 - d. Meridian Community College and East Mississippi Community College are the two colleges that are working on agreements at this time.
- 5. Dr. Blackburn mentioned the Mississippi Educational Teaching Program (METP) agreement with Ole Miss. The Heron Foundation is giving each institution an additional 10 scholarships this fall and spring.
- 6. College of Architecture, Art, and Design had an 8-year accreditation last week and there were no negative comments in the report. Dr. Hodges also spoke highly of the visit, and she said that the accreditors were impressed and said it was highly unusual for a school to have no negative findings.
- 7. Dr. Travis mentioned Alicia Garza would be speaking at MSU tomorrow night for women's history month.
- 8. Dr. Oswald said April 19 is the grand opening for the Entrepreneurship Center.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.