

Deans Council Minutes
July 18, 2016
1:30 PM
Presidents Conference Room, Lee Hall

In attendance: Julia Hodges, Richard Blackburn, Lori Bruce, Frances Coleman, Scott Willard (for George Hopper), Jason Keith, Joan Lucas, Kevin Rogers (for Sharon Oswald), , Peter Ryan, Kent Hoblet, Chris Snyder, Rick Travis, Jim West, Tim Chamblee, Terry Dale Cruse, John Dickerson, Mike Rackley

Others present: Teresa Gammill, Judy Spencer

Minutes taken by: Lecrisha Nail

- I. Judy Bonner called the meeting to order. Upon a motion by Dr. Richard Blackburn and second by Dr. Terry Dale Cruse, the minutes of the June 20, 2016, meeting were approved unanimously with no edits. Agenda items were discussed:
- II. Mississippi Financial Aid Update
 - a. Effective July 1, the state of Mississippi legislature enacted new law changing financial aid because of state budget cuts.
 - b. An appeals process was created due to the overwhelming number of complaints
 - i. Acceptable appeals would typically be serious illness, personal injury, divorce, or death of an immediate family member.
 - ii. Also acceptable is a student nearing degree completion that does not have enough hours remaining to warrant full-time enrollment.
 - iii. Also certain disabilities that would require documentation from a physician.
 - c. There are some requirements that the student must follow to appeal.
 - d. Dr. Ryan is concerned that faculty, department heads, and deans may get drawn into the process and be a large burden.
 - e. Dr. Hodges asked if there was an appeals process when the minimum was 12 hours, and it was determined that there was not. This is a new process.
 - f. Dr. Bonner expressed concern about freshman or other students that may drop a course during the semester and lose financial aid the next semester.
 - g. Dr. Bonner asked Dr. Dickerson to monitor the number of freshman that drop below 15 hours.
 - h. Dr. Dickerson gave the following statistics: for the fall of 2015 and there were 1,930 students who received the MTAG and were enrolled in less than 15 hours. There were 237 students who received the MESHG and were enrolled in less than 15 hours. Those that received both and were enrolled in less than 15 hours was 1,948.
 - i. Dr. Cruse asked if a student taking 15 hours began failing a class and dropped it and enrolled at a community college, would they lose financial aid? Yes they would.
 - j. Dr. Blackburn said that the deans are always willing to help with extra student issues such as these.
 - k. Dr. Hodges mentioned that we should probably talk to other institutions and see how they are handling this.
 - l. Dr. Travis says students should be assisted with this at the departmental level. He is going to create a form letter to students who appeal explaining what documentation is needed.
 - m. Dr. Bonner said the university needs to keep an open dialogue on this subject.
- III. AOP 12.29 Undergraduate Entrance Requirements
 - a. Updating language in the policy.

- b. Under policy and procedure section: The UAPC does not have authority over undergraduate entrance requirements as they are defined by the IHL Board. What the UAPC does do is review requests from departments, academic units and/or colleges where they may wish to institute admission requirements to a program above and beyond the entrance requirements to the university, which the IHL Board sets. There are a number of academic programs that have admission requirements more stringent than those for admission to the university. The UAPC ensures that these more stringent requirements are appropriate and fair. Dr. Bonner mentioned the changes made by homeland security for students admitted from another country. It is now required that all foreign students must meet all requirements Form 920 to enter the country.
 - c. Dr. Hodges mentioned the second bullet under the full admissions paragraph may need a comma change to clarify exactly what the requirements are for undergraduate admission.
 - d. Dr. Cruse mentioned needing clarification on ACT minimums on freshman admission for dual enrollment.
 - e. It was decided to table this AOP and Dr. Bonner asked that the deans send suggestions for revisions.
- IV. Other
- a. Dr. Bonner commended Dr. Cruse and the Meridian campus for the recent signing agreements with East Mississippi Community College and Meridian Community College.
 - b. Dr. Bonner commended Dean Coleman for the Orley Hood Collection reception that the library hosted last week.
 - c. Dr. Dickerson thanked everyone for their assistance with orientation and registration. Just over 3500 freshman currently enrolled. Expecting 100-150 more to register before classes begin, which will be about 100 more than last year. Transfer student enrollment is at about the same level, around 700. ACT average for freshman is up compared to last year.
 - d. Dr. Bruce encouraged the colleges to finish the workload of graduate admissions. She has been visiting China and had several successful recruiting events with universities there.
 - e. Dr. Blackbourn said his department heads are interested in talking about changes to promotion and tenure. Dr. Bonner is interested in discussions on this and wants to be transparent with the faculty.
 - f. Dr. Keith visited the MSU campus at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) last week. There are currently 12 students enrolled in electrical engineering and 19 enrolled in mechanical engineering. There is also a partnership agreement being signed at MGCCC and that will include 52 students in mechanical engineering and 33 students in electrical engineering.
 - g. Mr. Rackley mentioned that the MyState mobile app launched today. Students will be able to add and drop classes via the app on their phone.
- V. Dr. Bonner mentioned that Dean's Council will meet monthly for the fall semester.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.