

Deans Council Minutes
January 4, 2010

Members present: Richard Blackbourn, Frances Coleman, Lou D'Abramo, Jerry Gilbert (chairing for Glenn Steele), Kent Hoblet, George Hopper, Meghan Millea, Melissa Mixon, Gary Myers, Sarah Rajala, Lynne Richardson, Peter Ryan, Jack Tucci, and Jim West. Also present were: Mark Binkley, Tim Chamblee, Charles Guest, Mike Rackley, David Shaw, and Butch Stokes.

1. **Time limits for graduate degrees:** Dr. D'Abramo shared a "Proposed Revision to Policy on time Limits for Graduate Degrees" which was prepared by a subcommittee of Graduate Council. He discussed the differences in the proposed policy and the current policy and stated that this was approved by the Graduate Council, and he wanted input from the Deans Council members. This will hopefully accommodate part-time and non-traditional students. After the Deans have an opportunity to take this back to their units, it will be on the next Deans Council agenda.
2. **Overhead Distribution Focus Group:** Dr. David Shaw led a discussion concerning the document titled "Overhead Distribution Focus Group". The deans expressed interest in taking this information back to their units. This item will also be on the next Deans Council agenda.
3. **Academic Operating Policies:**
 - AOP 12:16 (Academic Suspension and Dismissal): Dr. Gilbert discussed the revisions presented in this policy and submitted for approval. There was a motion to approve as submitted, a second, and this was unanimously approved.
 - AOP XX.XX (Substantive Changes): Dr. Chamblee stated that this is a new policy for dealing with accreditation issues (substantive changes). There was a motion to approve as submitted, a second, and this policy was unanimously approved.
4. **Academic Efficiencies and Innovations Working Group:** In Dr. Steele's absence, Meghan Millea gave a brief update on the progress of the Academic Efficiencies and Innovations Working Group and the Non-Academic Efficiencies and Innovations Working Group. The combined groups recently met with President Keenum for preliminary reporting.
5. **Other Items:**
 - Registrar Stokes reported on the commencement held in December. One small orientation session will be held on Tuesday, January 5.

- Mike Rackley stated that in response to budget reductions, he has had inquiries about substituting Skype for traditional telephone connections. State funds cannot be authorized for that service.
- Interim Dean Mixon said that at the end of the month, Mike Kidd (department head) will move to Arkansas.
- Dean Coleman stated that the Library has worked with the Library representatives and department heads to discontinue some titles that have not been used. Allocations will be made to departments for purchase of monographs.
- Dr. D'Abramo reported that the graduate student assistant workshop is going on now and an orientation session will be held tomorrow.
- Dr. Chamblee reported that on Friday, Institutional Effectiveness and Center for Teaching and Learning will jointly host Dr. Mark Taylor to speak about connecting with students (handout). He also reported that the President will distribute information early in February regarding a national on-line survey for student engagement (handout), for seniors and freshmen participation.
- Dean Rajala informed the Deans Council that Hunter Henry's wife passed away yesterday.
- Dean Richardson inquired about security in buildings during the time that campus is closed. There was a discussion concerning security and unlocked doors.