

**Deans Council**  
**September 13, 2010**  
**1:30 PM**  
**Allen 611**

**Members Present:** Jerry Gilbert (chair), Mark Binkley, Richard Blackbourn, Timothy Chamblee, Frances Coleman, Bill Person (for Lou D'Abramo), Rhett Hobart, George Hopper, Charlie Guest (for Joan Lucas), Meghan Millea, Gary Myers, Mike Rackley, Sarah Rajala, Paul Grimes (for Lynne Richardson), Peter Ryan, Amy Adkerson (for Butch Stokes), Jack Tucci, and Jim West.

**Others Present:** Phil Bonfanti, Teresa Gammill, Lisa Harris, Cathy Lammons, and Melvin Ray.

**Minutes taken by:** Martha Thomas.

1. The minutes of the August 30, 2010, meeting were approved with no corrections.
2. Announcements:
  - a. Dr. Gilbert announced that he sent out letters addressing the level of faculty funding to be returned to the colleges associated with the retirement incentive.
  - b. Dr. Gilbert requested that the Deans submit their lists of StatePride faculty award recipients within the next week. Dr. Gilbert explained that Dr. Keenum would like to announce the awards and awardees.
    - i. Dr. Gilbert referred to a distributed letter that he would like for the Deans to utilize in notifying faculty that they will receive the StatePride award. Dr. Gilbert would like to encourage faculty to send a note/letter of appreciation to the donor associated with that award, and send a copy to Cathy Lammons.
    - ii. Donor addresses may be obtained by contacting the Development Officer of each respective college.
  - c. Dr. Gilbert announced that the General Faculty meeting will be Friday, September 17.
  - d. Dr. Gilbert announced that Dr. Gary Myers has agreed to chair the Search Committee for the Dean of the Shackouls Honors College.
    - i. The decision was made to elevate the position of Director of the Shackouls Honors College to Dean of the Shackouls Honors College to elevate the status of the college and to assist with the Phi Beta Kappa application.
  - e. Dr. Gilbert announced that Dr. Lynne Richardson has announced that she will step down from the position of Dean and return to the faculty.
    - i. Dr. Gilbert announced that Dr. Lou D'Abramo has agreed to chair the Search Committee for the Dean of the College of Business.
    - ii. Dr. Gilbert explained that he hopes to have the Dean in place by July 1 of next year.
  - f. Dr. Gilbert announced that a small committee will be formed to examine Thursday night football games for future years so that a plan can be solidified in advance. The Athletic Department received \$200,000 for having a Thursday night football game. Dr. Keenum requested that \$150,000 of this money be distributed to the divisions and colleges that were impacted by the game. Letters will be distributed this week with

the amounts to be allocated to each unit. Dr. Gilbert expressed his appreciation for faculty and staff pitching in to make the Thursday night game possible. He was impressed with how faculty went out of their way to accommodate this event and the creative solutions they developed to address the impacts of the event.

3. Phil Bonfanti and Lisa Harris discussed Recruiting Goals and Enrollment (continued from the Deans Council meeting on August 30).
  - a. Dr. Bonfanti was asked to look at enrollment and project anticipated future enrollment. He explained that in order to do so, you must examine previous trends.
    - i. In 2004, the university's total enrollment was 15,934.
    - ii. The undergraduate total has remained consistent as a percentage of total enrollment of 78-79%.
  - b. Dr. Bonfanti projected data based upon an assumed, modest 4% growth over the next five years. This would yield 20,000 students in Fall 2011, 21,000 in Fall 2012, and 22,000 in Fall 2013. This projection would meet Dr. Keenum's enrollment goal prior to the goal date he set.
  - c. There was discussion concerning the recruitment of in-state versus out-of-state students.
  - d. Dr. Bonfanti explained that from Fall 2004 to Fall 2010, in-state Freshmen increased by 36% and out-of-state Freshmen increased by 105%.
  - e. There was discussion about other universities' enrollment figures, the suggestion to recruit more heavily in Texas, and recruiting costs and net costs to the university.
  - f. Dr. Bonfanti called the Deans' attention to the data he provided about their specific colleges which includes information about the Freshmen and Transfer classes for the last six years. He would like for the university to set goals for colleges, departments, and majors and create objectives for meeting those goals.
  - g. Dr. Bonfanti asked for the colleges to review the information he distributed and work with the Division of Student Affairs as a partner to develop plans for enrollment growth.
4. Bill Person discussed the proposed change in wording of graduate student diplomas (for Lou D'Abramo, continued from the Deans Council meeting on August 30):
  - a. There was discussion about the current and previous diploma and the motivation for changing the current diploma (the Dean of the respective college signs).
  - b. Dr. Person explained that having the Dean of the Graduate School sign graduate student diplomas would give graduate diplomas a distinction from undergraduate student diplomas.
  - c. Richard Blackburn asked whether consideration had been given regarding what our designated peer institutions do regarding this topic. Dr. Person responded that this had not yet been considered.
  - d. George Hopper stated that he liked the current graduate student diploma. He suggested that if you have the signature of a Dean on the diploma, it should be the signature of the respective college.

- e. Sarah Rajala explained that she perceives the connection master's students have is with the respective college, while Ph.D. students' connection is with the university as a whole since it is a terminal degree.
  - f. Dr. Gilbert suggested that we need to determine the extent to which graduate students support the proposed change. At this time, there is not strong support within Deans Council to support the proposal. Additional information is needed.
5. Other Items:
- a. Dr. Rajala expressed concern over the closing of the housing in Aiken Village that was announced to the resident recently. She stated that she hoped that Deans would have an opportunity to provide input and that there would be a thoughtful alternative for the international and married students currently residing at Aiken Village.
    - i. Dr. Gilbert stated that he raised the same concern at the Vice Presidents meeting. In response, Dr. Keenum suggested that we address this and other concerns associated with housing.
  - b. Dr. Blackburn announced that there was an article in the Clarion-Ledger today regarding the ratio of administrators to students at Mississippi public higher education institutions, including Mississippi State University. There was discussion about whether the figures in the article were accurate. Timothy Chamblee indicated that he would work to confirm the figures.
  - c. Dr. Hopper distributed a brochure and invited everyone to the Forestry Equipment Show on September 17 & 18.