

## Deans Council Minutes October 19, 2009

Members present: Peter Rabideau, chairman; Frances Coleman, Lou D'Abramo, Jerry Gilbert, Kent Hoblet, Richard Kaminski (for George Hopper), Melissa Mixon, Gary Myers, Sarah Rajala, Lynne Richardson, Peter Ryan, Jeffrey Slater, Jack Tucci, and David Lewis (for Jim West). Also present were: Mark Binkley, Tim Chamblee, Charles Guest, and Mike Rackley.

1. Dr. Rabideau began the meeting by welcoming and asking Dr. Gilbert to introduce the SECAC Academic Leadership Fellows to the meeting. They are: Mike Highfield (head of the Department of Finance and Economics), P. C. Cinnella (interim department head of Aerospace Engineering), and Sherri Worthy (from the School of Human Sciences).
2. **Academic Operating Policies:**
  - AOP 12.09 - Class Attendance and Reporting Absences: Dr. Gilbert detailed the proposed changes in the policy. When asked for a definition of immediate family, Dr. Gilbert stated that he would add that definition as an editorial change. There was a motion and second to accept the policy with this editorial change. This was approved unanimously.
  - AOP XX.XX - Credentials for Teaching: Dr. Gilbert went over this new policy in detail. This is in response to requirements for MSU's upcoming re-affirmation with SACS. After discussion there was a motion and second to accept the policy as written. This was approved unanimously.
  - AOP 12.35 - Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: The changes reflected in this policy are the result of a request from Student Support Services to allow for students with disabilities to appeal a decision. One editorial change approved was "Accommodation in the Classroom" should read "Accommodations in the Classroom". With that editorial change noted, the policy was approved unanimously.
3. **Provisions to stop the tenure clock:** This was discussed at the most recent Deans Council meeting, and University Counsel Charlie Guest has informed Dr. Rabideau that this is in violation of Board policy. Mr. Guest has asked the Board office to see if the Commissioner would agree to get the Board to resolve the policy. Until this issue is resolved, no further requests for stopping a tenure clock will be approved.
4. **Budget:** Dr. Rabideau distributed a document summarizing MSU's student credit hours, cost per course, and cost per student credit hour. Dr. Rabideau asked the deans to mark this document "DRAFT IHL DATA". This information was provided by IHL, but was the second draft provided, due to errors on the first information provided. A question came up about the dates for these data and Dr. Rabideau stated that we will check on that. Another question arose concerning whether this information includes distance courses and Dr. Rabideau stated we will also check

on that. Dr. Rabideau led a discussion on budget issues. [NOTE: Data does include distance courses]

5. **Other Items:**

- Mike Rackley reported that the Banner upgrade performed last weekend appears to be running smoothly. The second annual Cyber Security Awareness Week is scheduled for October 19-22.
- Dean Myers reported that the Arts and Sciences Fall Fest Week is this week, with the research showcase on Wednesday and Thursday. The A&S home page provides information on events. A special presentation by Dr. Rabideau is scheduled for Café Scientifique at the State Theatre on Tuesday evening at 6:00 PM.
- Dean Hoblet stated that CVM applications for admission is up 10%. A speaker is scheduled for Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the Wise Center.
- Dr. D'Abramo stated that the Graduate School begins a new recruiting effort. This year the focus is on the state of Georgia. We have sixty-three graduate students who have submitted abstracts for symposium on November 6th; and 68 doctoral students have applied for graduation. That graduation number is up 40%
- Dean Rajala reported that four finalists for the Vice President for Research and Economic Development have been identified and interviews will be in November.
- Dean Richardson stated that tomorrow the United Way Lunch will be held at the Old Main Plaza. A community forum on education is tomorrow night, sponsored by the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, regarding new accountability standards.
- Dr. Kaminski reported that the College of Forest Resources is again hosting their Wood Magic Fair this week with about 4,000 students expected to participate.
- Dean Tucci reported that the Riley Center has had record ticket sales this year.
- Dr. Chamblee stated that next week the Institutional Effectiveness Committee will meet to provide information. We will also begin working with units to provide training on the new TracDat software.
- Dr. Ryan thanked the deans for submitting justification information regarding additional course fees. The committee is working on suggestions and developing guidelines and strategies to develop recommendations for additional fees.
- Jeffrey Slater introduced himself as the new Vice President for Student Association and he will be attending the future Deans Council meetings for the year.