

Deans Council Minutes September 15, 2003

Members present: Peter Rabideau, chairman; Wayne Bennett, Frances Coleman, Sara Freedman, Bob Karr, Nick Nichols, Phil Oldham, Nancy Reichert, George Rent, Roy Ruby, Clay Taylor, Gerald Ainsworth (for John Thomson), Vance Watson, and Jim West. Also present were: Charles Lee, Butch Stokes, Gary Pike, Charles Guest, Mike Rackley, and Leslie Bauman.

1. Provost Rabideau's items:

- Dr. Rabideau plans to visit all colleges and deans in their environments. Waanda will schedule those.
- Dr. Rabideau also plans to routinely meet one-on-one with deans.
- We will be scheduling some informational meetings with deans for informal planning sessions and general discussions for the good of the academic programs.
- Some initial issues to work with the deans on are:
 - a) quality of faculty
 - b) promotion and tenure standards -- University Promotion and Tenure Committee requested a draft of a document concerning use of outside letters.
 - c) importance of hiring excellent faculty from prestigious institutions.
 - d) endowed chair positions.
- One of Dr. Rabideau's goals is to closely integrate the deans, department heads, and others with the research enterprise at the university. The Vice President for Research has been invited to sit with the Deans Council in future meetings.
- Dr. Rabideau will serve as chair of the Vice President for Research Search Committee. Korn Ferry people will be on campus next week to meet with the committee. Our ad appeared on September 5.
- Centers and Institutes policy was approved by Executive Council this morning. This was necessary for SACS reporting.
- We will work with Jimmy Abraham on student recruitment, retention and graduation rates. I will also visit some high schools with Dr. Abraham.

2. President Lee's items:

- This semester, the President's Office has received no complaints concerning inability to get in school or classes this year.
- At the end of this meeting, I will ask for your thoughts on items that should be covered at General Faculty meeting next week.
- The list of institutions from which we have recruited new faculty is a list of prestigious schools this year. Being selective is important.
- Enrollment is a serious issue amongst legislative circles and IHL. 100 students is about \$400,000 in tuition and fees. Students are the most important part of why we are here.

- Dr. Lee thanked everyone for their work on SACS. Executive Council approved several documents/policies in response to the SACS team.
 - Dr. Lee thanked Clay Taylor and others for distance education document.
 - We have announced a search for a Vice President for Finance and Administration, with the justification being on the web-site. Joe Farris will send this to the deans.
 - We hope to include in the P&T process the scholarship of outreach. We need a better way of recognizing quality and impact of faculty time spent on outreach. We will discuss this at the next Faculty Senate Roundtable.
 - Dr. Lee commended the deans for making department heads aware of and bringing them into the performance based planning and budgeting.
 - We continue to be concerned about the data integrity issue.
 - Dr. Lee is interested in seeing us balance between roles of Provost and Vice President for Research.
 - Dr. Lee will schedule a separate meeting with the deans to talk about outreach and engagement process.
 - Dr. Lee asked for suggestions of items to be discussed or mentioned at the Fall General Faculty meeting scheduled for Monday, September 22. He received the following suggestions:
 - a) Discuss budgets -- what you see in the future; how to react to economy we are in.
 - b) Enrollment is everybody's business, and reflects on the entire institution.
 - c) The new AOP on Faculty Workload -- list some key points; when and why it came about; stress positive points; is it for all faculty -- or just tenured, tenure track, and instruction faculty?
 - d) Enrollment and the need to look at enrollment management (include recruiting, retention, and employment).
 - Dr. Lee said we are up 18-20% in terms of awards. We have 117 new faculty members.
 - The press has been asking questions about our capital campaign and our theme is "State of the Future" -- and comes from a graduate student at Meridian.
3. Other areas:
- Nancy Reichert reported for Faculty Senate:
 - a) When Faculty Senate considered the representative from Meridian, a quorum was not present. We will meet this Friday to address that issue.
 - b) Will Faculty Senate have a chance to review the Centers and Institutes policy that was approved by Executive Council? Dr. Rabideau replied that this was processed in response to SACS and can be reviewed and modified when necessary.
 - Clay Taylor, for Continuing Education, commented that several people contributed to the distance learning policy and he appreciated the help.
 - Gary Pike reported for Institutional Research:

- a) Department profiles have been prepared.
- b) Will meet with Dr. Jonathan Pote about research dollars.
- c) Would like to meet with all deans prior to October 1 to share what we have done and get input. The issue is how we define data, not how we count.
- Wayne Bennett reported for Engineering:
 - a) Our Software Engineering program has been accredited -- we are one of the first four in the country and the only public institution in the Southeast to achieve this.
 - b) We hope to have our new strategic plan in place in 6-8 weeks.
- Phil Oldham reported for Arts and Sciences:
 - a) Enrollment is up in the college.
 - b) New money for classes has helped significantly.
 - c) We will replace three department heads this year (Biological Sciences, English, and Communication).
- Frances Coleman reported for the Library:
 - a) We meet with Library representatives and department heads.
 - b) We have an invitation from the National Agricultural Library to be involved with their project.
 - c) We have graduate coordinator workshops scheduled as well as web of science workshops.
- Bob Karr reported for Forest Resources:
 - a) We are working on strategic planning and looking differently than in the past.
 - b) We have almost completed division direction, budget based planning process.
- Nick Nichols reported for Meridian:
 - a) The schematic designs on the Riley Center have been approved, with a tentative opening date of December 17, 2005.
 - b) We are beginning the search for Executive Director for that facility.
 - c) Today on Meridian campus, we have College Admissions Institute - - 300-500 students on campus, with a speaker from *USA Today*.
- Butch Stokes reported for the Registrar's office:

Amy Adkerson joined the professional staff as Curriculum and Scheduling Specialist. She is a graduate of Communication Department.
- Sara Freedman reported for Business and Industry:
 - a) We met today to select the architect for the building expansion. We hope to have Board approval in October.
 - b) We completed our strategic plan this summer.
 - c) We have a few open faculty positions, with our first candidate coming in next week.
- Jim West reported for Architecture:
 - a) Our accrediting visit is this year and we are planning for that.
 - b) The dedication ceremony for the new building in Jackson is scheduled for September 26. All our students go to Jackson for the fifth-year.

- Leslie Bauman reported for SACS:
 - a) SACS responsibilities are coming to an end and this is the last Deans Council meeting I will attend.
 - b) I am working on writing on planning and will make calls this week.
- Mike Rackley reported for ITS:
 - a) Danny Kemp is retiring and the ad for that position goes out today. Tom Lindsay will chair the committee and Butch Stokes will represent Academic Affairs on that committee.
 - b) We have had bouts with viruses and worms and hope to send a solution to the Instructional Technology Advisory Committee next week.
- Vance Watson reported for Agriculture and Life Sciences:
 - a) We have one active department head search.
 - b) Most faculty positions are filled.
 - c) We are preparing for budget hearings which will be held next week.
- Dean Bennett recommended that Deans Council give Leslie Bauman a commendation for her hard work and go on record as appreciating what she has done as Director of the SACS Self Study.