

**ASSOCIATE DEANS COUNCIL
MARCH 10, 2004**

Members Present: Jerry Gilbert (chair), Keith Belli, Louis Capella, Jane Greenwood, Richard Heard, Dan Hollingsworth, Dinetta Karriem, Sue Minchew, Linda Morse, Elaine Reed for Gary Myers, Phillip Nelson, Debbie Pepper, Julie Fulgham for Gary Pike, Ruth Prescott, Mike Rackley, Lynn Reinschmiedt, Sharon Nobles for Bobby Stokes, Robert Taylor, Jack White, and Mike White.

Dr. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Items on the agenda were considered out of order listed due to a delay in the visit by Dr. William Kibler.

1. Item 4 of the agenda – Maximum Scholarship Award was discussed. Teresa Bost, Assistant Director of Student Financial Aid, had met with the Deans Council and recommended that Mississippi State University exclude external resources in the calculations to satisfy the IHL's cost of attendance policy. IHL Board Policy 703.04C states that a student's E&G funded scholarship, when combined with other educational resources, can not exceed the student's cost of attendance. The current annual undergraduate cost is estimated at \$12,729 and includes in-state tuition & fees, books & supplies, room & board, personal and transportation. The University Scholarship Committee has recommended establishing June 15th as the final deadline for submitting the next year's departmental/college scholarship request forms. Any additional spring awards must be submitted by October 15. The Department of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships had requested an immediate decision for the cost of attendance policy.

The university would exclude external awards (including Pell Grants) when determining scholarships counted toward cost of attendance.

The Deans Council had asked that the Associate Deans Council consider this request and make a recommendation to the Deans Council.

Dr. Gilbert proposed that the Associate Deans Council recommend to the Deans Council that MSU scholarships with any E&G funding be capped at the cost of attendance and that the Department of Student Financial Aid have in place a system to reduce any scholarships back to the cost of attendance if the award were to go over and to exclude scholarship money that would take the total over the cost of attendance. It was further proposed that colleges and departments retain the right to award purely private scholarships in excess of the cost of attendance provided that the colleges/departments have private funding to totally fund such scholarships. Colleges and departments should explore creative ways to couple

other incentives with scholarships such as summer employment in research and other summer program opportunities such as study abroad.

Currently if the scholarships awarded exceed the cost of attendance, the E&G funding is removed and the college or department is billed for that amount; the college or department has to cover this through private funding.

Richard Heard stated that he was concerned that a student would be notified that he had been awarded a scholarship and would include that in his budget. Later in the semester the student would find that the scholarship funds had been removed from his account, and the student would owe the university money and/or not have enough to meet his budgeted expenses. It was stated that a student should know that he is limited to the cost of attendance (currently \$12,729) and that any money he receives over that amount did not belong to him and should be returned. It was also stated that a department should not notify a student of a financial award and then take the financial award away from the student.

Jack White stated that some scholarships are limited to the cost of attendance – such as the Goldwater and Truman scholarships. Two or three Goldwater recipients did not receive any money because other scholarships had fully funded their costs of attendance. The student does receive benefit of the prestige and recognition of the award but no financial benefit.

It was stated that all letters notifying students of scholarship awards should be routed through the Department of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships prior to mailing to students. Financial Aid would notify the college/department if a student's award places him over the cost of attendance; the student would receive the scholarship title and recognition but no financial benefit.

The motion was made and seconded that the Associate Deans Council recommends to the Deans that beginning Fall 2004 the Student Financial Aid & Scholarship Office will cap the amount of scholarship awards to the cost of attendance in accordance with IHL policy. Colleges and departments will retain the right to award purely private scholarships in excess of the cost of attendance provided private funding is available to totally fund such scholarships. Colleges and departments should develop incentives to award students during the summer. Motion was approved. Dr. Gilbert will present the Associate Deans Council recommendation to Dr. Rabideau for his action.

2. Ruth Prescott introduced Dr. William Kibler, finalist for the position of Vice President for Student Affairs. Dr. Kibler discussed his goals for the Division of Student Affairs and answered questions regarding programs that he might introduce at Mississippi State University.
3. The minutes of the February 25, 2004 meeting were approved as submitted.
4. Dr. Gilbert stated that there were no items to report as Chair.
5. Implementation of AOP 12.16 – Academic Suspension and Dismissal. Dr. Gilbert stated that this AOP was recently revised to raise the GPA levels for continuing

enrollment up to a 2.0 for Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomores and to a 1.5 for Freshmen. If imposed this semester, we would have suspended an additional 700+ students. Since this represents a significant change in the GPA requirements, Provost Rabideau recommends a gradual enforcement of the new requirements. Dr. Gilbert presented for discussion a draft memo from the Provost to the University community outlining a proposed implementation schedule to put the new standards in place as it is applied to grades at the end of the spring semester. This implementation would be applied for summer/fall enrollment. Under this proposal, full implementation of the new policy would occur by Fall 2006. Dr. Gilbert had discussed this proposed implementation schedule with Dr. Walter Diehl, President of the Faculty Senate, and Dr. Diehl was not opposed to this. However, Dr. Diehl had told Dr. Gilbert that the Faculty Senate would oppose the gradual implementation plan if the policy were not fully in effect by fall of 2006.

This policy was revised in October 2001, and additional revisions were made in 2002. The policy was then delayed in the administrative process. It was forwarded to Faculty Senate in April 2003 and was approved by the Faculty Senate in December 2003 and approved by President Lee December 12, 2003. Internal Audit posted the policy on the University Policies and Procedures website at that time. In the meantime, the Registrar's Office had printed the 2004-05 bulletin which includes the original policy with lower requirements

Dr. Gilbert asked the associate deans to consider three options: (1) whether to add to the policy an effective date of implementation and to decide what that date would be, (2) whether to have the Provost send out the memo proposing the gradual implementation plan, or (3) whether the Provost as Chief Academic Officer should suspend the policy at this time.

The original intent of raising the standards was to benefit the students. Students with 1.0 GPAs were being allowed to remain when it would be impossible to make the grades necessary to meet the standards.

The question was asked if the Registrar could implement by Fall 2004 the policy as revised for first-time incoming students. A student's file would have to be flagged to show that a student entered under the new standards. Current students would be allowed to continue under the original standards.

Incoming freshmen and transfer students need to be made aware of the new academic standards during orientation and registration. The policy states that no student will be suspended for failing to achieve the required grade point average without first having had at least one semester of probation.

The motion was made and seconded to revise the current policy by adding the following: "This policy applies to all first-time incoming students beginning Fall Semester 2004. As of Fall 2008, this policy will be in effect for all students regardless of date of enrollment." Motion was approved by the associate deans and will be forwarded to Deans Council at its next meeting.

5. Other Business:

- Jack White extended an invitation to the associate deans to the Honors Awards Ceremony on Saturday, March 27. Students from each college and honors faculty will be recognized as well as longtime supporters of the Honors Program. The ceremony begins at 2:00 at the M-Club.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.