

2/1/08 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Angie Atkins, Dr. Suzanne Bean, Lucy Betcher, Marty Brock, Dr. Michael Burger for Dr. Dorothy Kerzel, Becky Cade, Nick Cordingly, Dr. Eric Daffron, Cassie Derden, Dr. Pat Donat, Dr. Jim Fitzgerald, Carol Frazier, Melanie Freeman, Gail Gunter, Dave Haffly, Andrea Holcombe, Dr. Joyce Hunt, Larry Jones, Dr. Claudia Limbert, Cay Lollar, Carla Lowery, Dr. Barbara Moore, Anika Perkins, Mary Margaret Roberts, Calvin Seller, Wahnee Sherman, Rhonda Thomas, Dr. Bucky Wesley, Same Wise, and Cathy Young.

Absent: Dr. Sheila Adams, Dr. Gary Bouse, Roger Busby, Nicole Dilg, Robin Holliman, Dr. Hal Jenkins, Dr. Sandra Jordan, Dan Miller, Irene Miller, Nora Miller, Tonya Moak, Dr. Bridget Pieschel, Dr. Tom Richardson, Perry Sansing, Amy Swingle, and Eileen Van Der Weele.

Dr. Claudia Limbert called the meeting to order.

The minutes from January 2008 were approved.

University Update -

Dr. Limbert stated that she and several others from campus went to Washington, D.C., this week to make the university's annual requests with the Mississippi congressional delegation. As usual, they had a good response from the congressmen with each giving the MUW group a 30 minute to one hour meeting. The congressmen had many questions and showed a great deal of pride in what MUW is doing. MUW presented one new proposal along with four others. The politically directed funds have been cut so she is not sure what will happen. The university did recently learn that the Roger Wicker Center for Creative Learning received \$292,000 from its 2007 requests. Dr. Suzanne Bean added that some of this money will be used to sustain staffing at the center.

The memorandum of agreement with the Columbus Police Department has been signed so that there will be no confusion about who is in charge in the case of a campus shooter like at Virginia Tech. Officer Peacock from the MUW Police Department is going through special training to assist the Columbus Police Department on MUW's campus. The Columbus Police Department also has walked through campus buildings at night to learn the layout of the buildings.

Work should begin soon on the Fine Arts interior repair work. Sam Wise added that travel will be difficult in this area during construction. Also, some parking spots will be lost.

Academic Update -

In the absence of Dr. Sandra Jordan, Dr. Pat Donat reported that AT&T Mississippi has given financial support for the continuance of MUW's Teaching Circles Program.

Work continues on course redesign on the use of technology to support learning in English composition classes and intermediate and college algebra courses.

The university won second place in IHL's Best Practices competition for its entry on "Increasing Advisor Knowledge and Information Access."

20/20 Focus Group meetings are being held over the next couple of weeks. After all the groups have met, the reports from each group will be forwarded to a task force that will compile the reports into a master report to present to Dr. Limbert. Then Dr. Limbert will announce the findings to the campus by the beginning of March.

IHL has begun a strategic initiative on recruiting and retaining more baccalaureate students. A group from MUW is going to Jackson on February 13 to meet about this initiative.

The deans are working on schedules for the fall semester. They are coming up with an alternative plan in case the renovations to Painter are not complete by the beginning of the semester.

Cay Lollar is heading a group that is reviewing the undergraduate bulletin.

An archivist is coming to campus to look at MUW's collections and will work with the architect for the library renovation project.

Finance and Administration Update -

Dr. Limbert said that Nora Miller is at the SACUBO conference.

Institutional Advancement Update -

In the absence of Dr. Gary Bouse, Mary Margaret Roberts announced that the search for a new web master is down to two candidates, and a decision will be made soon on who will fill this position.

The Foundation's Annual Report has been mailed.

The Alumni Office is finalizing the details for Homecoming, which is set for April 18-20.

Public Affairs is busy sending out many press releases.

Student Services Update -

Dr. Bucky Wesley said that Cassie Derden is serving on Mississippi's College Access Website Development Work Team which will develop a one-stop website for all things higher education. She will be working to provide feedback on the functionality and usability of the site as the development progresses and has been assigned to the transfer section of the website.

The recent Hearin Leadership Weekend was a success with 89 students in attendance. He thanked Wahnee Sherman in Student Affairs and all those who supported the program for their hard work.

Admissions is working to engage alumni in student recruitment efforts. Admissions has held several training programs for alumni throughout the state and plans to hold one during Homecoming. Josh Hollis in Public Affairs is working on an online training module that will allow alumni from across the United States to participate.

Dr. Marty Hatton is chairing a student recruitment marketing committee to provide input on student recruitment. That group is working to gather more information about those elements of the university that are most attractive to the university's top scholars. The primary concern, as reflected in the Enrollment Management Plan, is increasing quality, such as attracting more students with a 27 ACT or higher. The current freshmen class currently has 10 percent with an ACT score in this range.

Dr. Suzanne Bean commented that the Columbus-Lowndes Development Link recently brought a group of leadership students to campus. The students were so impressed with their visit to campus and the valuable information that they learned that they cancelled their visits to two other universities.

Ms. Cade added that this news is the type of information is she would like to share on the new alumni Chat and Connect.

Police Department/Human Resources Update -

In the absence of Perry Sansing, Melanie Freeman noted that W2s were mailed this week.

Chief Calvin Sellers reported that the new text messaging communication has been used a couple of times recently, and he encouraged everyone to sign up. Larry Jones added that 451 people currently are signed up. He will send out another reminder about signing up soon and will perform a test this month.

Faculty Senate Update -

Cathy Young said that Faculty Senate met last week. Drs. Limbert and Jordan attended and gave updates. The Faculty Senate currently is discussing fund disbursement and policies.

Staff Council Update -

No one was present from Staff Council.

SGA Update -

In the absence of Nicole Dilg, Wahnee Sherman stated that SGA is preparing for the SGA spring elections and are working on a lighting survey.

Other Updates -

Cay Lollar introduced Tammy Prather, the new assistant registrar.

Following the regular meeting, the group, absent Dr. Limbert, discussed PS 3540. The group voted for the changes to the policy.