

4/4/08 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Kristen Barnes, Lucy Betcher, Marty Brock, Dr. Michael Burger for Dr. Dorothy Kerzel, Roger Busby, Bryant Cook, Dr. Eric Daffron, Cassie Derden, Dr. Pat Donat, Carol Frazier, Melanie Freeman, Gail Gunter, Dave Haffly, Dr. Hal Jenkins, Dr. Sandra Jordan, Dr. Claudia Limbert, Cay Lollar, Carla Lowery, Tonya Moak, Dr. Barbara Moore, Brandon Newsome, Sirena Parker, Anika Perkins, Perry Sansing, Wahnee Sherman, Elbert Spruill for Robin Holliman, Rhonda Thomas, Eileen Van Der Weele, Dr. Bucky Wesley, and Sam Wise

Absent: Dr. Sheila Adams, Angie Atkins, Dr. Suzanne Bean, Dr. Gary Bouse, Becky Cade, Dr. Jim Fitzgerald, Andrea Holcombe, Dr. Joyce Hunt, Larry Jones, Dan Miller, Nora Miller, Dr. Bridget Pieschel, Dr. Tom Richardson, Mary Margaret Roberts, Calvin Sellers, Amy Swingle, and Cathy Young

Dr. Claudia Limbert called the meeting to order.

The minutes from March 2008 were approved with two minor changes.

University Update -

Dr. Limbert stated that she is working on her response to the white paper that was presented by the Focus on the Future Task Force. There were many great ideas in this report.

She is continuing to make visits to campus offices. She has learned a great deal and is amazed by what the offices are doing for MUW.

Yesterday she had an IHL Institutional Executive Officer (IEO) meeting in Jackson. Nothing is firm yet, but she wants the campus to know what the university will probably be facing. Nora Miller and Dr. Sandra Jordan also attended the meeting. Dr. Limbert strongly represented MUW. The IHL Board presented five scenarios for allocating money to the institutions from the legislative appropriations. None of the five scenarios are good for MUW. In general, the only institution to benefit from the scenarios is Ole Miss because enrollment is up there. Ole Miss claims it is the most poorly funded; however, Dr. Limbert says the large amounts they receive in research funds, donations, and earmarks have not been considered. Ole Miss also has a large number of out-of-state students from Tennessee who are charged full out-of-state tuition. Ole Miss also has larger classes and some graduate students teaching classes whereas MUW has smaller classes and no graduate students teaching. MUW also has many adult learners and other students who require more attention. The range of cuts MUW would experience next year for the five scenarios is from \$261,000 to \$785,000. MUW isn't the only university that will suffer due to the new funding model. Delta State University also will lose money with all five scenarios. DSU's president Dr. John Hilpert also was vocal during the meeting. Dr. Limbert told the Administrative Council that she will continue to argue against the new funding model, but it doesn't look good. Dr. Limbert again stated that no scenario is firm yet.

Following the IEO meeting, the group met with Senator Dean Kirby and Representative Percy Watson to talk about bond requests. Both legislators said they want to help. A while back, the

universities were asked to come up with priority lists for bond bills. Then each university was asked to narrow its list down to the top three priorities. MUW's top one is fire suppression for the front dorms. Dr. Limbert told the two legislators who asked about the projects and how it would affect the universities if the projects are not done this year that all three of MUW's projects are emergencies, not fluff. It would take \$3 million to do MUW's projects. A legislative aide said if the projects are not done this year the projects will cost considerably more next year due to rising costs. If projects are put off, Dr. Limbert told the legislators that MUW would have to lock the doors of some buildings and put tarps on roofs. Dr. Hilpert said the same thing would happen at Delta State and there would be reduced access to higher education in the state.

The IEOs also met with Rep. Johnny Stringer who gave the group updates. In addition, Dr. Limbert spoke to several other legislators in the hallways of the Capital.

Perry Sansing added that Dr. Limbert was discussing two separate fundings. The legislature gives a pot of money to IHL called legislative appropriations. Then IHL determines how to allocate the money among the eight institutions. Even if the legislature gives IHL level funding, than actually that is a cut, because the cost of utilities and other expenses have gone up. The second cut would be from IHL because of their new funding formula they are calling "equity funding" or "rebalancing." Also, Mr. Sansing wanted to point out that bond bill money is different from legislative appropriations. Bond bill money is money borrowed by the state that can be used for renovation of buildings only.

Dr. Jordan also commented about the new funding formula. She said Dr. Limbert, Dr. Hilpert, and Dr. Mason from Jackson State University were the presidents who spoke the most and that MUW and DSU will be hit the hardest by the new funding formula. She said the new funding formula is not about being equal or fair. Instead of basing funding the way many other states do which is to compare how a university has grown individually, Mississippi IHL is comparing institutions to each other.

Dr. Bucky Wesley said that the key to IHL's new funding formula is enrollment. MUW is four months away from the Fall 2008 semester. Everyone needs to work very hard to help recruit and retain students.

Academic Update -

Dr. Jordan reported that MUW's new master's degree program that was approved by IHL two years ago is still awaiting approval by the State Department of Education. It is important to grow our degree programs because of the need for the program by students and the funding it will bring.

The task forces within Academic Affairs continue to meet. Reports from these groups will be posted soon. The report about internationalizing our curriculum and student body will be posted soon. The Academic Dishonesty Task Force is surveying classes to measure where the university is in terms or attitudes about academic dishonesty. This report should be turned in by mid-April. It will be posted as well.

A symposium on politics past and present is coming up.

The name changes proposed were approved. The College of Business is now the College of Business and Legal Studies with the Department of Legal Studies now falling under that college. The Department of History, Political Science, Geography and Paralegal Studies is now the Department of History, Political Science and Geography.

The field trip to Chicago to check out other libraries was a good trip where she and other university representatives got many great ideas. The plan for MUW's library renovation project is almost complete and includes learning commons with more gathering spaces and computers. The plan also includes a robotic retrieval system. MUW would be the first in the state to have system.

The College of Arts and Sciences had a recognition for its students doing research, and nursing had its Research Day this week. The Academic Affairs area has a task force that is working to increase the amount of research at MUW.

Dr. Jordan thanked Dr. Wesley and Cassie Derden for assisting the students from the colleges who are calling prospective students and encouraging them to complete their admission applications. Twenty-five nursing students participated in calling last night.

MUW has decided against going forward with a grant on Chinese with Ole Miss because the university would need to make an initial \$40,000 commitment.

The new MFA program was not approved in time to recruit a minimum number of students for this year. There were eight interested students, but 10 were needed. They will try again next year.

The Women's Center for Entrepreneurship had its first banquet last week. It went well.

A congressional grant may come through for the boat project to offer hands-on water science.

Student Services Update -

Dr. Wesley mentioned that Education Career Day was held April 2 and went well.

Student Services is working with Alumni Relations and Sodexo Food Services on the upcoming Blues and Barbeque event during Homecoming weekend.

Early registration for the fall semester is April 14. There are 29 new students registered to come for pre-registration. This is up by seven from last year. Admissions has sent more mailings and made more calls to students this year, and prospective students have made more visits. In past years, there has been a 63% show rate from freshmen who apply. That was down in the 40% range last year. He wants to see that number go back up.

An internal behavioral response team has been formed to identify and assist troubled students.

IHL is sending an expert to all the IHL campuses for assistance.

Dr. Wesley said that Bryant Cook has been busy updating web pages and also got the new MUW 20/20 website up. There are many other projects underway.

He thanked Resources Management and Sodexo Facilities Management for their help with the Obama rally.

The report is in from the Recruiting Task Force, and he is reviewing it.

Police Department/Human Resources Update -

Mr. Sansing stated that the Human Resources staff is reviewing both the forms and the method of the staff evaluation process. They want to get input from the campus.

Human Resources also is conducting a survey on possible training for employees. He encouraged everyone to complete the survey.

Mr. Sansing said that Chief Calvin Sellers was at the Emergency Management meeting about the potential threat of bad weather this morning. Sam Wise attended the Emergency Management meeting and had returned to campus for Administrative Council. He reported that the area has the potential for hazardous weather and to watch for updates on the MUW website, by email, and by text message.

Staff Council Update -

Elbert Spruill said Staff Council is planning a staff luncheon for the week after graduation. The luncheon will serve as a way to strengthen ties to one another.

Other projects Staff Council is working on are developing a new staff orientation document and updating Staff Council's constitution and web page.

SGA Update -

Kristen Barnes announced that the silent auction to raise money for Cook Elementary School went well with over \$600 raised.

SGA is looking for ways to expand of the university's recycling program that currently includes only plastics.

Other News -

Dr. Limbert congratulated Anika Perkins and her staff on the new Visions that was delivered to campus yesterday.

Dr. Jordan said she and Dr. Wesley are working with Columbus Air Force Base to make the people at Columbus Air Force Base more aware of the programs offered at MUW.

Dr. Michael Burger asked about any changes for the Painter Hall project. Dr. Jordan said Ms. Miller, who wasn't present, is working on this project and realizes summer is getting close.

Mr. Roger Busby announced that Sodexo has changed the spelling of its name from Sodexho to Sodexo. The logo will change also.

Ms. Cay Lollar reported that Nikki Beasley's father passed away.