

4/3/09 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Dr. Brian Anderson, Angie Atkins, Jessica Baker for Kristen Barnes, Dr. Gary Bouse, Bryant Cook, Dr. Eric Daffron, James Denney, Cassie Derden, Carol Frazier, Melanie Freeman, Gail Gunter, Dr. Joyce Hunt, Dr. Hal Jenkins, Dr. Dorothy Kerzel, Dr. Claudia Limbert, Cay Lollar, Scott McKenzie, Dan Miller, Nora Miller, Tonya Moak, Brandi Pannell for Robin Holliman, Dr. Tom Richardson, Mary Margaret Roberts, Perry Sansing, Dr. Wahnee Sherman, Amy Swingle, Dr. Bucky Wesley, and Sam Wise.

Absent: Dr. Sheila Adams, Lana Allen, Lucy Betcher, Marty Brock, Kate Brown, Roger Busby, Dave Haffly, Andrea Holcombe, Larry Jones, Dr. Sandra Jordan, Carla Lowery, Dr. Barbara Moore, Brandon Newsome, Sirena Parker, Lamar Peacock, Anika Perkins, Dr. Bridget Pieschel, Rhonda Thomas, Eileen Van Der Weele, Dr. Tom Velek, and Cathy Young.

Dr. Claudia Limbert called the meeting to order.

Minutes -

The minutes from March 2009 were approved.

University Update -

Dr. Claudia Limbert said there was an article in the *Clarion Ledger* this morning about funding. The Legislature has gone home until May or June when they will return to finish the budget. They are waiting to see what the stimulus package will do. Governor Barbour has a stimulus meeting scheduled for April 16.

Dr. Limbert called on Nora Miller to speak about the budget, and Ms. Miller said that her update last month included information about the federal stimulus package -- in particular the state fiscal stabilization plan with approximately \$400 million to restore K-12, CJC and IHL to the original FY 09 appropriations and the understanding that if Mississippi accepts the stimulus funds that these funds could be used for FY 09, FY 10, and possibly FY 11.

Today is the deadline for the Governor to certify as to what portions of the stimulus package Mississippi will accept. The feds are to review all the states' certifications over the next couple of weeks. Our legislature has recessed until May. If more on the stimulus package is not known at that time, they will likely recess until June and appropriations and budgets for FY 2010 will be put on hold until then.

What has changed since last month are the revenue projections for the state of Mississippi. With corporate tax collections being down 25% over the past 4 months, the estimated revenues for the year ending June 30, 2009, have been lowered to \$300 million below the original amount budgeted for the year. The cuts that have been made to date equal \$200 million. There hasn't really been any talk about another round of budget cuts for this year, so there will probably be some raiding of the rainy-day fund or some other means to push the cuts into FY 2010. Already

the revenue estimates for FY 2010 have been reduced by \$400 million.

The state economist has predicted that the state economy may not pick up until 2014. That means that whatever stabilization funds we may have access to will not be enough to keep us "whole" until then. IHL says that stimulus funds should be used to "slide down the hill, rather than fall off the cliff."

IHL is having weekly conference calls to discuss funding and the stimulus package, and the Governor is having a summit on April 16, following the IHL Board meeting and MEC meeting.

We will continue to work through strategic planning at PIE Council and on unit levels, but the timing of MUW's budget process is going to be determined by the actions of the Governor, federal government, state legislature, and IHL Board.

Dan Miller added that a positive with the economy is the state was able to find the money to fully fund Mtag so students would not see a cut in their financial aid packages.

Dr. Limbert continued her report by saying that Dr. Sandra Jordan could not be present at this meeting, but she is continuing to lead the PIE Council, Academic Council, and the Dean's Council through strategic planning.

She thanked all those who chair or are members of the various employee search committees currently in process on campus.

As a member of the Search Advisory Committee for the next IHL commissioner, Dr. Limbert participated in the group's first meeting in which they discussed characteristics of the next commissioner. No calendar has been established yet for this search.

The Columbus Police Department will hold a SWAT training session on campus in May with MUW's police officers being able to participate for free.

Dr. Limbert concluded her report by urging members to continue to look for ways to conserve the university's resources.

Academic Affairs Update -

In the absence of Dr. Jordan, Dr. Eric Daffron reminded the group that the Academic Affairs area continues to work on curriculum development. The three degree programs MUW is proposing are a master's in public history, a bachelor's in technology, and a bachelor's in public safety administration.

Finance and Administration Update -

Ms. Miller reported a \$35 million bond bill has been passed for IHL. MUW's share of that is \$1.5 million, which will go towards the IHL #1 request -- fire suppression in the residence halls.

This summer should be busy on campus. The university will use prior year's bond funding to install air handlers in Kincannon, install fire suppression systems in Callaway and Goen halls, and will start the first phase of Poindexter, which will be some demolition of interior walls to more clearly identify what issues need to be dealt with. The full construction project should bid this summer. The university was ready to bid and moved out of Poindexter three years ago. It looks like the project will finally happen.

Resource Planning Taskforce subcommittees are at work. She encouraged members to share any cost-saving ideas by completing the online survey and encourage others to do so. The surveys can be submitted anonymously by going to <http://scantron.muw.edu/classclimate/online/>.

Institutional Advancement Update -

Dr. Gary Bouse called on Mary Margaret Roberts to report about Homecoming, which is scheduled for April 17-19, and she passed out the Homecoming brochure and complimented Nick Adams on his excellent work. She said an addition to the Homecoming schedule are historic monologues by Honors students on nine front campus buildings. The highlight of the weekend is the gala with food by the Culinary Arts Institute. So far, 152 people have pre-registered for Homecoming, and she is pleased with this number. She added that the Alumni Association is about to put up a new website, and the Nominating Committee is working on the nomination of new officers.

Dr. Bouse continued the report from the Institutional Advancement area by saying that the newest issue of *Visions* will be out later this month and that Public Affairs is already working on the next issue.

At the February Foundation Board of Directors meeting, two important decisions were made. The first concerned the spending rate from endowments. The rate has been 5% for many years. Most organizations use a rate of 3 ½% to 5%. Given the current economic situation, the Board decided to lower it to 4 ¼% and to change from a 1-year moving average to a 3-year moving average.

The other decision involved UMIFA, which concerns the management of funds by non-profit organizations. Mississippi is a member of UMIFA, so all the universities in Mississippi must operate according to UMIFA's guidelines, such as, if there is an agreement between the organization and a donor, then the agreement must be followed even if it means not being able to offer a scholarship for a period of time because the endowment is "underwater." MUW currently has 20% of its endowments "underwater" with many of this percent barely "underwater." Many other universities are in worse shape than MUW because many of MUW's endowments are older. The question the Foundation had to answer was whether or not to spend from the earnings of these endowments that are "underwater." The Foundation voted "yes" to expend available earnings from endowments that are "underwater."

Dr. Bouse also noted that Cathy Chain, the Foundation accountant, has accepted a position elsewhere, so he is currently searching for a replacement for this part-time position.

Student Services Update -

Dr. Bucky Wesley said that applications and acceptances for the fall are up, and housing applications for new students also is up.

He asked Cassie Derden to report about the recent McDevitt Scholars Day, and she said that it went well with 88 students participating, which is a 76% increase over last year. She added that Scholar's Day is set for next week, and applications for this event are up.

Dr. Wesley continued his report by saying the Content Web process is 85% to 90% complete. The issues they are trying to work out are making sure it views the same on all computers, working through the training process, and figuring out how to load content quicker.

He added that Dr. Wahnee Sherman is leaving the university April 9 to accept another job. Announcements will come soon about some restructuring in that area.

Police Department/Human Resources Update -

Perry Sansing reported that the new police chief, John Harris, will begin April 20.

Faculty Senate Update -

In the absence of Cathy Young, Dr. Brian Anderson thanked the group for their support of the faculty/staff anniversary party. The Faculty Senate deeply appreciates the generous support of Sodexo as sponsors for this event.

Staff Council Update -

In the absence of Robin Holliman, Brandi Pannell said Staff Council would have more to report after its next meeting.

SGA Update -

In the absence of Kristen Barnes, Jessica Baker reported the results of the recent SGA elections.

Other news -

Dr. Joyce Hunt announced that the College of Business and Legal Studies is hosting an Energy Conference on April 7. Executives from companies such as TVA, Atmos, and Paccar will be present.

James Denney mentioned that there is a new form for grant proposals. It can be found on the website.