

10/3/08 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Dr. Sheila Adams, Dr. Brian Anderson, Lucy Betcher, Marty Brock, Kate Brown, Bryant Cook, Dr. Eric Daffron, James Denney, Cassie Derden, Carol Frazier, Melanie Freeman, Gail Gunter, Dave Haffly, Dr. Joyce Hunt, Dr. Hal Jenkins, Angela Jones for Nora Miller, Larry Jones, Dr. Dorothy Kerzel, Dr. Claudia Limbert, Carla Lowery, Scott McKenzie, Tonya Moak, Dr. Barbara Moore, Sirena Parker, Anika Perkins, Dr. Bridget Pieschel, Tammy Prather for Cay Lollar, Dr. Tom Richardson, Eileen Van Der Weele, Dr. Tom Velek, Dr. Bucky Wesley, and Sam Wise

Absent: Angie Atkins, Kristen Barnes, Dr. Gary Bouse, Roger Busby, Andrea Holcombe, Robin Holliman, Dr. Sandra Jordan, Dan Miller, Brandon Newsome, Lamar Peacock, Mary Margaret Roberts, Perry Sansing, Dr. Wahnee Sherman, Amy Swingle, Rhonda Thomas, and Cathy Young

Dr. Claudia Limbert called the meeting to order.

The minutes from September 2008 were approved.

University Update -

Dr. Limbert said she is very excited about the new academic initiatives that were passed at the September IHL meeting.

On Tuesday, attorneys for IHL and MUW and those for the Alumnae Association presented their oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Their opinion should be available in a few weeks or a few months.

The Welty Gala last week was a wonderful event. Governor Christine Todd Whitman was a superb speaker and fielded some excellent questions with great skill.

Dr. Limbert recently was on the Paul Gallo Show and has met with editorial boards at three newspapers to educate people across the state about why the university is in the process of changing names. She has enjoyed these meetings and will continue them.

On September 10, each IHL president was asked to speak before Senator Doug Davis from Hernando who chairs the Senate Universities and Colleges Committee and others from both the Senate and House who were there. Senator Davis is proposing legislation that would weaken the IHL Board by decentralizing it and putting in place separate boards at each IHL institution. None of the presidents spoke in favor of Senator Davis' proposal. He is visiting each of the IHL campuses. MUW's visit is next week. He will tour the campus and talk to the President's Cabinet and other representatives of the campus about his plan at greater length.

This past Wednesday, MUW hosted an extremely successful job expo with over 70 booths and many in attendance who were seeking employment. Many people helped, but she especially thanked Towanda Williams, Amy Swingle and her staff, and Sam Wise and his staff.

MUW will host a naturalization ceremony on December 4 at 10:30 a.m. These ceremonies are usually held in the courts, but they would like to move the ceremonies around the state so everyone will have a chance to see one. MUW was selected as the second site. This will be a very special ceremony.

Academic Affairs Update -

In the absence of Dr. Sandra Jordan, Dr. Eric Daffron updated the group on several of the initiatives Dr. Jordan mentioned at the last meeting. A new director, Maria Dunser, has been hired to head up the Academic Early Alert Program. The program will be rolled out in steps with the first step consisting of faculty reporting excessive absences and grades at midterm.

Dr. Dorothy Kerzel and the mathematics department are in the process of doing a course redesign in MA 100 AND 113. It should be ready by January. Also, Academic Affairs will experiment with some seven and a half week courses next semester to help those students who cannot commit to full semester courses because of work and/or family commitments and those students who learn better in compressed formats.

The General Studies Program was approved by the IHL Board at its recent meeting. This program will be especially helpful to students who have completed courses in many different areas but don't yet have a degree.

A number of Faculty Development Workshops are planned, including one on service learning scheduled for today.

Work continues on Student Learning Assessment. The first stage is creating departmental student-learning outcomes assessment plans, designed to improve student learning.

Finance and Administration Update -

In the absence of Nora Miller, Angela Jones reported that the university is continuing to monitor state tax collections and has not seen anything on MUW's September allocation. MUW is down \$40,000 thru August.

At the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) hearing last week, IHL presented a framework for a 5-year funding plan that would address funding with some understanding that the two major funding sources are appropriations and tuition. IHL said if the legislature could provide an additional \$36.2 million per year for each of the next five years, universities would commit to limiting tuition increases. Having a plan for higher education funding would be IHL's version of K-12's MAEP (Mississippi Adequate Education Program) and the community and junior colleges' Midpoint. The Committee received the idea of a funding plan and spoke favorably of opening the lines of communication. At the end of the day, Speaker of the House Billy McCoy named a committee of legislators to work with the IHL Board to present a plan back to Joint Legislative Budget Committee on November 11. With the current economy, \$36.2 million for each of the next 5 years may not be very realistic. The \$36.2 does not include raises,

health insurance increases, and other expenses. If this plan were funded, under the formula and rebalancing, MUW's cut could be reduced from \$4.1 million to \$500,000.

Progress continues on the Art and Design building. The elevator is the one hold up, but the building still should be completed in time to have classes there this spring.

A meeting was held last week with the architects and the Bureau person who is now in charge of the Poindexter project. Progress is beginning to be made.

Sam Wise added that progress continues on the storm drainage project.

Institutional Advancement Update -

In the absence of Dr. Gary Bouse, Anika Perkins reported that Alumni Relations will be sending out regular email updates about campus events.

Public Affairs sent a memo to all deans and department heads requesting information on upcoming events for press releases and other items of interest that would make good feature stories. Public Affairs also is updating the Experts Guide and is currently interviewing for an office manager/editor.

Student Services Update -

Dr. Bucky Wesley encouraged members to send information to the Behavioral Intervention Team. The campus is doing a better job on this.

The Office of Admissions has begun the next recruitment cycle and is using Facebook pages and other initiatives. Applications are up 12 percent. The university is not hosting traditional W Days. Instead, more individual and group visits tailored to specific needs are being used. Campus visits by prospective students are up compared to previous years. He believes this is affecting freshmen enrollment. Although the Fall 2008 total enrollment is slightly down, freshmen are up seven percent, and the average ACT score is up slightly.

The recent Job Expo hosted by MUW and the career events surrounding that went well.

The Enrollment Management Committee is meeting to review MUW's Enrollment Management Plan.

Work continues on redesigning MUW's homepage. The university needs to consider its resources and what can be reasonably done.

Police Department/Human Resources Update -

In the absence of Perry Sansing, Melanie Freeman said October is open enrollment month for the health plan. All changes made in October will be effective in January.

The administrative assistant in Human Resources has resigned, and a search is underway for a replacement.

A workshop titled "Accountability at Work" is scheduled for October 7. Spaces are still available.

The United Way campaign on campus has begun and will go through October 17.

Faculty Senate Update -

Dr. Brian Anderson reported that the Faculty Senate is hard at work on policy statements.

Staff Council Update -

No report.

SGA Update -

No report.