

12/5/08 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Dr. Sheila Adams, Lana Allen, Dr. Brian Anderson, Angie Atkins, Lucy Betcher, Marty Brock, Bryant Cook, Dr. Eric Daffron, James Denney, Cassie Derden, Carol Frazier, Melanie Freeman, Dave Haffly, Dr. Joyce Hunt, Larry Jones, Dr. Sandra Jordan, Dr. Dorothy Kerzel, Cay Lollar, Dan Miller, Nora Miller, Tonya Moak, Sirena Parker, Dr. Bridget Pieschel, Dr. Tom Richardson, Mary Margaret Roberts, Perry Sansing, Dr. Wahnee Sherman, Amy Swingle, Eileen Van Der Weele, Dr. Tom Velek, Dr. Bucky Wesley, Sam Wise, and Cathy Young

Absent: Kristen Barnes, Dr. Gary Bouse, Kate Brown, Roger Busby, Carol Frazier, Gail Gunter, Andrea Holcombe, Robin Holliman, Dr. Hal Jenkins, Dr. Claudia Limbert, Carla Lowery, Scott McKenzie, Dr. Barbara Moore, Brandon Newsome, Lamar Peacock, Anika Perkins, and Rhonda Thomas

In the absence of Dr. Claudia Limbert, Dr. Sandra Jordan called the meeting to order.

Policies -

Assessment Committee (New) - approved with changes, which include an amendment proposed by Dr. Eric Daffron and a change from author to originator in the heading.

Use of University Funds for Entertainment, Light Refreshments and Meals (New) - approved with changes, which include edits made by Academic Council and the change from author to originator in the heading.

Post Tenure Review (PS 1312) - tabled until next month

Minutes -

The minutes from November 2008 were approved.

University Update -

No report.

Academic Affairs Update -

James Denney reported on grant funding from July 1, 2008, to present. The university has received 10 awards totaling approximately \$1.4 million. Two awards are pending, and they include about another \$250,000. Six grants are in the proposal stage, and they total almost \$1.6 million.

Finance and Administration Update -

Nora Miller reminded the group about the email Dr. Limbert sent to the campus yesterday outlining the values that will be used to guide the university through the decisions that need to be made to address the \$317,000 2% funding cut that was announced by the Governor. MUW will need to be further prepared for the ongoing shortfalls in education enhancement funding and for any additional cuts that may be announced if the state revenues continue to lag behind budgeted revenues.

During October and November, IHL Board members and IHL staff met with the Joint Legislative Budget Committee to develop a 5-year plan for funding higher education. While the idea of a better communicated plan was well received by the legislative leadership, it is extremely doubtful that there will be the \$36 million of additional funding to implement this plan. IHL needs to continue to stress to the legislature - and to everyone - that funding public education should not stop at grade 12. More funding for all of IHL can help to soften the impact of future rebalancing.

The Governor's budget recommendation has a 4% reduction for most state agencies, including IHL. For MUW, without any "rebalancing," that means \$635,000 for next year. The Joint Legislative Budget Committee issued their recommendation this week. Although MUW has not seen any of the details on it, it should be bleaker than the Governor's. The Governor was able to include some rainy day funds and some proposed taxes in his budget. The JLBC is limited to enacted taxes in building their revenue estimate.

Regarding construction, Ms. Miller announced that Art and Design was officially deemed "substantially complete" as of last Monday night at midnight. Facilities has been busy replacing the construction lock cores with the permanent ones, and Resources Management has been collecting some estimates for having professional movers complete the move from Shattuck over the next two weeks. During the winter break, some minor renovations will be done to make the newly vacated space in Shattuck available for Culinary.

In closing, Ms. Miller asked everyone to carefully consider all expenditures and to help control utility costs as much as possible, such as turning off lights and equipment when they are not needed and to dress warmly to limit usage of personal heaters.

Institutional Advancement Update -

In the absence of Dr. Gary Bouse, Mary Margaret Roberts reminded the group about the Leslie F. Threadgill Lecture and Artist Series on December 10. The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra featuring The Pied Pipers and Nancy Knorr will perform their holiday production, "A Christmas Gift," in Rent Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for MUW and MSMS faculty and staff and area students and teachers are complimentary. Tickets for the general public are \$10. Tickets are available in the Foundation Office.

The holiday party for donors will be held next week.

Student Services Update -

Dr. Bucky Wesley reported that serious administration action was taken due to several student behavioral issues this fall. The Student Behavioral Alert Program and the Academic Early Alert Program will be tied together in the spring.

The new MUW homepage will be up next week.

Scholars Day at the end of November was a success with 55 students participating this year versus 28 last year. The average ACT score also was up among the participants. Another Scholar's Day is scheduled for February 6 with 34 students already registered compared to only four students this time last year.

All students who receive state financial aid must have a MUW email address to receive financial aid in the spring from the state. This new procedure is required by the state. Dan Miller and Larry Jones are continuing to work on this project.

Residence Halls will close for the winter break tomorrow. Some international students will stay.

The Hearin Leadership Conference is set for January 23-25, 2009. Applications are up slightly. McDevitt Scholars Day for transfer students is scheduled for March 27.

Police Department/Human Resources Update -

No report.

Faculty Senate Update -

Cathy Young said that Dr. Daffron gave an update on the Early Alert System at the last Faculty Senate meeting.

The Faculty Senate continues to work on policies and to make suggestions concerning MUW's budget issues.

Staff Council Update -

Elbert Spruill announced that the Staff Council's Thanksgiving canned food drive was a success. Enough canned foods were collected to provide food for three families this Thanksgiving.

The Staff Council will sponsor again the annual toy drive. Toys will be collected by the Salvation Army at the Staff Christmas Party December 12.

SGA Update -

No report.