

2/5/10 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Dr. Sheila Adams, Angie Atkins, Dr. Gary Bouse, Phillip Cockrell, Dr. Eric Daffron, James Denney, Cassie Derden, Melanie Freeman, Gail Gunter, Dave Haffly, Andrea Holcombe, Dr. Hal Jenkins, Dr. Sue Jolly-Smith, Larry Jones, Dr. Claudia Limbert, Cay Lollar, Dr. Bill Mayfield, Dan Miller, Nora Miller, Tonya Moak, Sirena Parker, Dr. Bridget Pieschel, Dr. Tom Richardson, Suzanne Ries, Mary Margaret Roberts, Perry Sansing, Sarah Sumners for Robin Holliman, Dr. Scott Tollison, Dr. Bucky Wesley, Sam Wise, and Cathy Young.

Absent: Lana Allen, Kristen Barnes, Dr. Mark Bean, Dr. Suzanne Bean, Lucy Betcher, Roger Busby, Bryant Cook, Carol Frazier, Jessica Harpole, Kennedy Meaders, Brandon Newsome, Anika Perkins, Eileen Van Der Weele, and Dr. Tom Velek.

Dr. Claudia Limbert called the meeting to order.

Minutes -

The minutes from January 2010 were approved.

University Update –

Dr. Claudia Limbert said the Administrative Council was formed as a discussion group so she is counting on this group to give some feedback.

It is important to note in reference to the article in today's newspaper about Governor Barbour's additional budget cuts that MUW, and even higher education, is not alone. The cuts will affect all state agencies.

A study began a couple of years ago concluded that there is a need for a name change. The institution was aware when the process began that the Legislature may not allow a name change. That's what has happened. Now the university needs to explore other ideas to increase enrollment to help offset these hard economic times.

She is aware that the article in yesterday's Commercial Dispatch concerning EMCC brought a great deal of reaction on campus. The tuition guarantee program is a good program. The article referred to other ideas, such as hosting EMCC classes on campus. Only the tuition program has been agreed on. All the other ideas are at the discussion stage only. These potential plans would need full-campus discussion and IHL approval.

The bottom line is that the budget situation is not going away because the budget crisis of this state is like none before. The university must work together and look at new ways of doing things. The end goal has to be the students.

Dr. Gary Bouse added that nothing in Dr. Rick Young's (President of EMCC) comments is incorrect. Dr. Young talks about what could be or would be. Those are the types of conversations that are needed. His comments need to be embraced as opportunities.

Dr. Limbert said that all ideas need to be on the table and discussed and examined carefully. She added that the discussion with Dr. Young took place several months ago.

Budget Presentation –

Ms. Nora Miller gave a power point presentation that was a combination of what MUW presented to Commissioner Hank Bounds on January 18 when each institution presented information in support of the proposed tuition increases, what Dr. Bounds then presented to the IHL Board, and the draft of the 3-year business plan that MUW submitted to show how the institution would address the projected cuts in appropriations by a combination of tuition, cuts, and efficiencies. She asked the Administrative Council members to keep in mind that this is a very fluid document based on certain assumptions. One assumption that may be changing (as of today) is the revised FY 10 budget, which can then ripple into FY 11 and FY 12. The Governor is expected to announce a fourth round of cuts for FY 10, and there will be more to adjust to cover amounts that each university must absorb to hold Ayers settlement money harmless. Further adjustments may be necessary as sales tax revenues come in over the remainder of the year.

The presentation showed that the system level appropriations and purchasing power loss for on and off campus for FY 2009 through FY 2013 is projected to be \$67 million. Specifically for MUW is \$6.1 million. Using a projected 2% enrollment increase as approved by Dr. Bounds and a proposed 5% tuition increase, MUW's draft plan for sustaining the FY 10-12 cuts include strategic and financial opportunities such as a potential name change (which seems to be a dead issue for this legislative session), growth of the E-College and new degree opportunities, continued enrollment growth, potential for tuition reciprocity for out-of-state students in neighboring counties, growth of international students (specifically from China), potential for FY 12 stimulus funding through Friends of the W campaign, and continue to expand opportunities for partnerships and external funding. Efficiencies and cuts under consideration are investing in energy projects that would give an annual payback, reduce institutional work-study, sustain frozen positions, eliminate nearly 30 positions, reduce pay for some positions, reduce summer school base pay, continue limiting adjuncts and overloads, reduce student programs, reduce testing budget, eliminate certain official functions and communications, reduce advertising and departmental operating budgets, and eliminate some academic programs. MUW's decrease in appropriations will be made up mostly with cuts. The tuition increase will help. Enrollment increases will help also. The university needs to work hard to show IHL that the projected 2% enrollment increase is too conservative.

Several Administrative Council members had questions and/or comments:

Dr. Bridget Pieschel asked if there will be a system-wide freeze of unfilled positions, and Ms. Miller answered that she has not heard of any such plan.

Mr. Dan Miller asked if the reduction in summer school pay would mean a decrease in offerings. He noted that Pell money is being expanded to cover summer terms. Dr. Hal Jenkins responded that there would be no reduction in offerings, just in pay.

Dr. Tom Richardson asked what has come of the IHL discussion of combining back office operations. Ms. Miller said that IHL will continue to look at ways to effect centralization without having to invest in new systems.

Dr. Bouse noted that IHL is looking at the end of the semester enrollment numbers (credit hour production) rather than the typical enrollment figure of earlier in the semester. MUW's 10th day FTE enrollment figures have been growing at a higher rate than the credit hours reported at the end of each semester. Ms. Cay Lollar added that IHL also is not counting WP and WF students.

Academic Affairs Update -

Dr. Jenkins thanked Dr. Eric Daffron and his committee for their hard work on the SACS 5-year report that is almost ready to be sent to SACS. He also thanked Mr. James Denney and others for the increase in grant activity. MUW has more grants right now than was received for the entire year last year.

The Culinary Arts Institute will be affiliated with the Mississippi Hospitality and Restaurant Association high school competition. MUW will be offering some prizes that should attract some additional students to the program.

MUW will be participating in the National Pro Star Program which will help the institution recruit nationally.

An accreditation team for the Nursing program will be on campus this month, and accreditation processes for legal studies and business are coming up.

Finance & Administration Update -

Ms. Nora Miller reported that an IHL Energy Team – consisting of people from IHL, DSU, MSU, MVSU and USM – will be on campus next Thursday to assist MUW with an energy efficiencies review. These are being conducted on all campuses.

The latest word on Poindexter is that construction documents should be wrapped up by the end of this month. That would put bid documents out in March with an April bid date. That may mean that completion would not be until October 2011. She has stressed the importance of being able to offer fall 2011 classes in this building.

Student Services Update –

Dr. Bucky Wesley announced several upcoming events in his areas: Scholars Day (February 12), Room Draw (February 24), and McDevitt Scholars Day (March 26).

The recent Hearin Leadership Program was a success with 84 students in attendance compared to 67 last year.

Set up for the content management program for the website is ready and all pages should be migrated over by the end of the school year.

Institutional Advancement Update -

Dr. Gary Bouse said the latest issue of Visions was recently mailed. Additional copies are available.

The Foundation Board meets February 25 at Plymouth Bluff. The election process of new directors will begin. When recruiting new members to the Foundation's Board of Directors, the Foundation will continue to emphasize the member's ability to either contribute or to help secure private funding to the University.

The Telefund callers will soon begin calling to thank last year's donors.

Police Department/Human Resources Update -

No report.

Faculty Senate Update -

Ms. Cathy Young noted that the faculty members get nervous every time something comes out in the newspaper. She asked that members of the Administrative Council go back to faculty and staff in their areas and share information from this meeting. Dr. Limbert added that she also encourages this.

Dr. Bouse noted that outside entities, such as businesses, are watching MUW. It does not benefit the institution to fight with one another. All constituents need to come together as one for the benefit of MUW.

Ms. Young further said that everyone on campus needs to be included in recruiting.

Dr. Wesley said that there are more students in the recruitment funnel than previous years, but we need them to step over the threshold. A more personal approach would be great.

Dr. Richardson added that he feels Dr. Limbert should send out a positive statement that maybe includes a statement from Dr. Bounds to combat the negative press this week. It needs to state who we are and where we are going. The statement needs to list all the positive things going on at MUW.

Dr. Limbert said she would work on the statement.

Staff Council Update -

No report.

SGA Update –

No report.

Policies –

The Administrative Council voted to approve PS 3302 and new policies, Hiring of Non-Academic Staff and Professionals and Identity Theft Prevention Program, all with suggested changes. Additionally, Dr. Hal Jenkins reported for informational purposes that an editorial change was made to PS 3525 (Graduate Council).