

9/6/13 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Dr. Sheila Adams, Dewey Blansett, Dr. Jim Borsig, Dr. Kate Brown, Sirena Cantrell, Trish Caston, Lyndsay Cumberland, James Denney, Melanie Freeman, Maridith Geuder, Gail Gunter, Dave Haffly, Jessica Harpole, Dr. Marty Hatton, Dr. Dan Heimmermann, Dr. Sue Jolly-Smith, Larry Jones, Carla Lowery, Timothy Mbogo, Dr. Jennifer Miles, Nora Miller, Shelley Moss, Nicole Patrick, Danny Patton, Anika Perkins, Tammy Prather, Dr. Monica Riley, Andrea Stevens, Dr. Scott Tollison, Dr. Royal Toy, and Ken Widner.

Dr. Jim Borsig called the meeting to order.

Minutes -

Following a motion by Dr. Royal Toy and a second by Maridith Geuder, the minutes from the August 2013 meeting were approved.

University Update –

Dr. Borsig asked Dr. Marty Hatton to give an update on SACS. Dr. Hatton said the compliance document will be mailed today. The university's SACS consultants provided great feedback that can be used as we go forward. MUW's document will be reviewed by SACS in October and November, and the university should receive feedback in early 2014. The on-site visit will be in March 2014. The university's response to the DNP site visit also will be mailed today. Dr. Borsig said he appreciates the hard work of so many people on campus.

Dr. Borsig noted that because of the recommendations from Noel-Levitz and the hard work of the Admissions staff, the university saw a doubling of production this summer. The call center was important to this production. Another change implemented for the fall recruitment period is a new scholarship awards program, which should help the university recruit more students, especially freshmen. These changes are based on information about the students who enroll at MUW. The university will now turn its focus to retention.

Dr. Borsig also spoke about leadership. The university learned in the spring that the Hearin Foundation would not continue funding for the Hearin Leadership Program because of priority changes at the Hearin Foundation. This is giving the university the opportunity to revamp the leadership program. The goal is to increase participation, making it available to all students and all colleges. Dr. Borsig soon will name a committee of employers that hire our graduates to find out what leadership skills they are looking for in potential employees. The university also will hire a consultant to do an assessment of what we are doing, tell us what the national trend is, and give input on what we should be doing. Then this will be turned over to faculty and staff to redesign the leadership program on campus. This year is a transition year for the leadership program. The university will honor the scholarship already in place, and Dr. Kate Brown will staff this transition process.

Faculty Senate Update -

Dr. Royal Toy reported that Faculty Senate has held its first meeting of the new academic year. The group discussed opportunities and may be bringing some of these ideas to the campus and Dr. Borsig and Dr. Dan Heimmermann.

Staff Council Update -

Trish Caston said Staff Council also had its first meeting of the new academic year. The group has decided to recognize and give a special welcome to new staff members who join the university family. Staff Council also will help with the university's United Way campaign. The group will attend a conference for staff councils October 28-29.

SGA Update -

Timothy Mbogo thanked the membership for their participation in the recent Chit Chat Luncheon, and he said the election of new senators will take place on September 13.

Policies -

On a motion by Dr. Royal Toy and a second by Dr. Sue Jolly-Smith, the Administrative Council voted to accept PS 8502 (Student Organizations) into the review process.

Other Updates -

Andrea Stevens said the Telefund calling will begin soon.

Anika Perkins asked the Deans to send bragging points to her.

Maridith Geuder said the disaster drill this week went well and that the university learned things that need to be improved.

Shelley Moss noted that Admissions is in the fall recruitment process.

Nicole Patrick said the Office of Financial Aid welcomed a new assistant director and that today is refund day.

Nora Miller reported that work continues on the Martin/Eckford parking lot and the Welty Hall roof.

Trish Caston encouraged members to give suggestions for Tech Tuesdays.

Larry Jones said the new charging stations on campus have opened and the update is complete on the student wireless network. The upcoming campus network update should double the speed.

Lyndsay Cumberland said alumni gatherings in Jackson, Starkville, the Delta, and Arkansas are coming up, and that the Office of Alumni Relations recently worked with the Office of Admissions on several student send-off parties.

Dr. Sheila Adams thanked the membership for their help with the disaster drill this week. This was a great chance for the university to practice what to do in case of a disaster. She also noted that the on-campus visit for the ASN national accreditation will take place later this month.

Dr. Kate Brown said there will be a planning meeting on September 18 for the Mississippi Municipal League Youth Summit that will take place on campus February 28-March 1, 2014. Also, a Blue Cross Blue Shield funding announcement will take place on September 19 for a new wellness initiative.

Dr. Marty Hatton reported that work on building procedure manuals will take place this fall. SACS wants the university to show how we are implementing policies. He also noted that there will be some changes in the student learning assessment and that the new instructional designer will hold some training sessions soon.

Chief Danny Patton said the disaster drill went well, but it exposed some weaknesses, such as the method in which the university community is notified about disasters. There is a deadline of November 1 to get the university emergency plan to the President's Cabinet.

Dr. Dan Heimmermann said Dr. Kate Brown will serve as the interim director of the Center for Academic Excellence. Also, he has spoken with several groups on campus about the possibility of adding an August commencement. He is also interested in adding 2-week intersessions. An intersession will be built in for May 2014, and he will propose that intersessions be added for August, January and May for the 2014-15 academic year.