

3/4/16 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Dr. Sheila Adams, LeAnn Alexander, Dr. Brian Anderson, Angie Atkins, Dewey Blansett, Dr. Jim Borsig, Dr. David Brooking, Cathy Smith for Lee Crouse, James Denney, Lynn Dobbs, Dr. Dionne Fortenberry, Maridith Geuder, Rodney Godfrey, Gail Gunter, Dave Haffly, Jessica Harpole, Dr. Marty Hatton, Quincy Hughes, Alan Johnson, Melinda Lowe, Lisa McDaniel, Dr. Jennifer Miles, Nora Miller, Andrew Money maker, Shelley Moss, Nicole Patrick, Danny Patton, Anika Perkins, Dr. Tom Richardson, Rita Robinson, Susan Soble y, Dr. Kim Whitehead, Ken Widner, and Tyler Wheat.

Dr. Jim Borsig called the meeting to order.

Minutes -

Following a motion by James Denney and a second by Tyler Wheat, the minutes from the February 2016 meeting were approved.

Legislative Update –

Nora Miller reported that the first deadline for legislative bills has passed, so many of the bills IHL has been watching have died. Some they are still watching deal with budget transparency, several on weapons, and one that would prevent IHL and community college board members, presidents and administrators from publically talking about political issues. The appropriation bills and bond bills have not been introduced yet. Dr. Borsig added that we should see the first appropriation bill and bond bill by March 19, and he said the next deadline after that is March 22. He also said the outcome of bills should be known in mid-April.

University Update –

Dr. Borsig gave an update on the state flag. He said many general bills on the flag have died, but there is still time and opportunity for the Legislature to take action. The opinions are divided on campus, but he said he is pleased the SGA and Faculty Senate are on record supporting changing the state flag.

Dr. Borsig announced that the IHL Board approved revisions to its policy on weapons at its February meeting to be in compliance with the state law as is interpreted by the state attorney general. The state law, effective in 2011, allows those with enhanced carry permits to be able to have weapons on college campuses. Dr. Borsig said in the revised IHL policy, the enhanced carry permit only applies to visitors (not faculty, staff and students) and only in areas of the campuses that the universities decide are public, not private (or sensitive). Dr. Borsig said MUW will model its policy after the IHL policy and will need to decide the sensitive areas of campus. He said he met with a small group yesterday and also met with Dr. Germain McConnell of MSMS to get a definitive answer on how MSMS will handle this situation as Dr. Borsig believes the law includes K-12. He said administrative buildings, academic buildings and residence halls will be considered sensitive, but outside places will not. Dr. Borsig reminded the group that those

with an enhanced carry permit cannot show their weapons and if someone sees or suspects someone with a weapon they should contact the MUW Police Department.

Dr. Borsig said he would like for the university to have a ban on drones because there is not enough time left in this academic year to develop a policy. This would be an interim step until a small group could be formed to discuss academic, hobby and visitor use of drones. FAA regulations on drones are currently evolving.

Faculty Senate Update –

In the absence of Lee Crouse, Cathy Smith said the faculty survey results about the state flag are complete. Out of 118 responses, 33.05% felt the Faculty Senate should take no action, 14.41% felt the Faculty Senate should do a letter in support of the current flag, 19.49% felt the Faculty Senate should do a letter supporting a change in the state flag and that the university should continue to fly the current flag until it is changed, and 33.05% felt the Faculty Senate should do a letter supporting a change in the state flag and that the university should remove the current flag from campus immediately. She noted that the Mississippi Faculty Senate presidents have signed a joint letter about the flag, and she offered to share it with Administrative Council members who would like to see it.

Staff Council Update –

Tyler Wheat reported that Staff Council is currently conducting a survey for staff about the flag issue. He also said an HR session on retirement is planned for March 29.

SGA Update –

Quincy Hughes said the President's Council meets next week, and Dr. Borsig will attend and speak about the weapons on campus issue. He also said the SGA presidents from the IHL institutions wrote a joint letter about the flag issue and are working on a joint resolution.

Policies –

Dr. Borsig introduced a new policy titled Administrative Guidelines for the Appointment of Advisory Boards. He said it emerged from an advancement perspective and the fact that the university does not have guidelines for advisory boards. The policy is intended to bring about diversity and fresh ideas for committees.

Following a motion by James Denney and a second by Dr. Marty Hatton, the Administrative Council voted to accept New Policy (Administrative Guidelines for the Appointment of Advisory Boards) into the review process.

No Administrative Council members objected to Dr. Borsig's proposal that the university put an immediate and temporary ban on drones on campus until more information is available from the FAA and a university policy can be developed.