

10.06.2017 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Nick Adams, Tammie McCoy (for Sheila Adams), Glen Halbert (for LeAnn Alexander), Dr. Mark Bean, Dr. Jim Borsig, Dr. David Brooking, Sirena Cantrell, Karen Clay, Lee Crouse, James Denney, Lynn Dobbs, Melanie Freeman, Rodney Godfrey, Dr. Amber Handy, Jessica Harpole, Dr. Marty Hatton, Dr. Holly Krogh, Carla Lowery, Lisa McDaniel, Dr. Jennifer Miles, Andrew MoneyMaker, Shelley Moss, Danny Patton, Anika Perkins, Amanda Clay Powers, Dr. Tom Richardson, Rita Robinson, Dr. Scott Tollison, Dr. Kim Whitehead, and Ken Widner

Dr. Jim Borsig called the meeting to order and welcomed Mr. Danny Avery, Executive Director of the United Way of Lowndes County. He spoke to the council regarding the United Way giving campaign that runs through October 27, 2017.

Minutes

Following a motion by Carla Lowery and a second by Melanie Freeman, the minutes from the September 2017 meeting were approved.

University Update

Dr. Borsig stated that he was going to be calling upon Dr. Mark Bean to give an update on the impact of the QEP and Dr. Whitehead to give an update on the Honors living and learning communities.

He stated that state revenues appear to be stable. No tax collection reports have been released for September, but all other indicators suggest that we are stable. The System's legislative requests are being reviewed, and he plans to have an update in November.

On financial stability, Ruffalo Noel-Levitz was here and Kevin Crockett spoke of strategic enrollment opportunities, which is especially vital given that we are two-thirds funded by tuition. The Board of Trustees is interested in eliminating duplications in the system with the belief that not every degree program needs to be offered on every campus. This is not a new concept.

Nora will kick off the financial sustainability committee this year and the goal is to educate campus. We anticipate having a new group every year and anticipate making availability of data related to sustainability campus-wide.

Regarding facilities, we will open bids for Turner Hall on October 12. Forty people showed up to the pre-bid conference for this project. We also opened bids for renovations to the softball field, and one was within budget. We are planning renovations relating to an artificial surface on the infield and outfield that can support other sports and intramurals.

Pioneers Plaza is undergoing a landscape installation.

October 20th, the library is having its Grand Opening ribbon cutting ceremony.

On behalf of Andrea Stevens, thanks to all who participated in the Faculty/Staff giving campaign. Participation is at a new high of 62%. Student campaign is underway.

The Demonstration School field will be offline during the renovations to Turner Hall and activities should be relocated to Kincannon Green. The tree near Turner Hall had to come down due to safety (not related to the renovations of Turner Hall) and Facilities plans to replace this tree with additional trees.

QEP Update

Dr. Borsig called on Dr. Mark Bean who gave the Third Year Impact Report for the QEP and presented a PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Bean explained the QEP had two goals: 1) to increase student curiosity to improve learning; and 2) to incorporate effective APIL (engaged learning) in programs. From 2014-2017, in sum, the data shows that our students are thinking more critically as seniors than they were as freshmen.

Honors Living and Learning Communities

Dr. Borsig called on Dr. Kim Whitehead who gave an update on the Honors College living and learning community. Dr. Whitehead that Honors has had a living and learning community in Grossnickle for over 10 years. The benefits include ease of transition to college, increased and meaningful interactions with faculty and students, and overall increase for retention and success. Last year, Honors started a peer mentoring program and added a living and learning unit in Kincannon. They did not have enough students to fill up the entire unit and also did not have enough males. The students readily accepted the 24/7 quiet hour policy. An Honors mentor/Junior or Senior Resident Advisor is placed in the hall and has regular communication with Dr. Whitehead. As Honors grows its programming, the goal is to turn it into a sophomore community.

Faculty Senate Update

Lee Crouse reported that Faculty Senate will have its next meeting on October 13 and Dr. Borsig has been invited to give a university update. The Executive Committee is currently working on making recommendations to the Faculty Senate Constitution.

Staff Council Update

Nick Adams stated that they are planning for the MASCO (Mississippi Association of Staff Council Organizations) meeting which will be held at The W in November. The next OWL Star winner will be announced within the next two weeks.

SGA Update

No Update.

Policies

Dr. Richardson brought PS 3508, The Undergraduate Curriculum Council, to the floor. He stated that the suggested revision is an editorial change that will reflect the current makeup of the newly designed colleges. Amanda Clay Powers made a motion to accept the changes which was seconded by Lee Crouse. Dr. Holly Krogh raised concern on behalf of the Academic Chairs that the suggested revision may not reflect representation of the general education curriculum, specifically the possibility that it will not give adequate representation from the college in which the majority of general education is housed. Dr. Richardson responded that any policy statement can be entered into the review process at any time by any group. Dr. Krogh stated the Chairs were meeting the next week, so there may be more discussion on this. Dr. Richardson called for a vote on PS 3508, and administrative council voted unanimously to accept the changes and recommend them for approval by the President.