

10/4/19 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Dr. Brian Anderson, Angie Atkins, Alonzo Bouldin, Dr. Marty Brock, Dr. David Brooking, Aaron Brooks, Ashley Chisolm, Karen Clay, Lynn Dobbs, Rodney Godfrey, Dr. Amber Handy, Jessica Harpole, Erinn Holloway, Carla Lowery, Dr. Tammie McCoy, Jennifer Moore, Nora Miller, Andrew Money maker, Shelley Moss, Nicole Patrick, Anika Perkins, Amanda Powers, Laura Quinn, Dr. Maria Scott, Susan Sobley, Andrea Stevens, Dr. Scott Tollison, Jason Trufant, Dr. Kim Whitehead, and Ken Widner

President Nora Miller called the meeting to order.

Minutes -

Following a motion by Andrea Stevens and a second by Carla Lowery, the minutes from the September 2019 meeting were approved.

University Update –

President Miller said when Administrative Council met last month she thought IHL was hours away from releasing the Fall 2019 enrollment figures, but later that morning IHL announced enrollment figures would not be released the tenth class day as usual, but the numbers would be released on the November 1 census date. She said that was a disappointment for The W because we had good news to share, but she is still expecting an increase over last fall. She said she has been able to talk in generalities as long as it is emphasized that it is based on preliminary numbers. President Miller noted that the November 1 census date does help future graduation rates by weeding out some of the first-time/full-time freshmen (FTFT) who drop out between the beginning of classes and November, although she feels it probably won't have as much of an impact on The W since our FTFT freshman cohort is so small.

For the September IHL Board Retreat, President Miller said each president/chancellor had 30 minutes to speak with the IHL Board. In addition to sharing the good news of recent rankings and fall enrollment, she said she reminded the Board that according to the current formula used for distributing appropriations, The W is receiving \$500,000 less per year than the other regional institutions are receiving. She said this is based on a formula that was derived when The W did not have intercollegiate athletics in the budget. This is The W's third year with intercollegiate athletics, so she said the university has a collective deficit of \$1.5 million. In addition, President Miller said she told the Board that while the current IHL legislative budget request is for a 6% raise for faculty salaries, our staff salaries lag even further behind our peer IHL institutions. If nothing is done legislatively, she said she told the Board that The W would need to have a 5% tuition increase to do something similar for staff. Lastly, she said she reminded the Board of where the university is with its facilities request and that The W is seeking the remainder of funds needed for full construction of the Culinary Arts facility.

President Miller reported the recent agreement signings with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

She detailed the university's recent rankings with U.S. News & World Report:

- #18 Top Public Regional University in the South
- #5 Best Value among Public Regional Universities in the South
- Lowest Median Amount of Debt at Graduation (14,000) for Public and Private Regional Universities in the South
- Tied for #13 for Best Public Regional Undergraduate Teaching Universities in the South
- #14 Best Colleges for Veterans among Public Regional Universities in the South
- Tied for #17 for Highest 6-year Graduation Rates among Public Regional Universities in the South
- #8 for Highest Proportion of Classes with Fewer than 20 Students among Public Regional Universities in the South
- #18 in Campus Ethnic Diversity for Public Regional Universities in the South
- #38 in Average Amount of Need-Based Aid Awarded among Public Regional Universities in the South
- #41 in Top Performers on Social Mobility among Public Regional Universities in the South

She said the university was recently honored for being on the Chronicle of Higher Education's Great Colleges to Work for Honor Roll for the seventh year in a row. In addition, she said The W won honors in seven categories this year:

- Collaborative Governance
- Professional/Career Development Programs
- Teaching Environment (Faculty Only)
- Job Satisfaction
- Confidence in Senior Leadership
- Supervisor/Department Chair Relationship
- Tenure Clarity & Process (Faculty Only)

President Miller also noted that The W was recently ranked by Washington Monthly Magazine as the highest among Mississippi's public universities in the 2019 Best Bang for the Buck – South category. The magazine placed The W at #53 of 203 universities in the South.

Diversity Award and Luncheon –

Karen Clay explained that the university typically has a luncheon in January to recognize The W's nominee for the IHL Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Award. She said a campus email will go out next week to ask for nominations for the 2020 award. In addition to recognizing an individual, the university also plans to take nominations for units. If a unit is chosen, she said that group of people will be awarded \$1,000 to help continue its work.

Faculty Senate Update –

Ashley Chisolm said the Faculty Senate's next meeting is set for October 11. She said there is \$5,200 of the beginning balance of \$8,000 left in Fund A and \$2,000 of the beginning balance of \$3,000 left in Fund B for faculty travel to conferences. She noted that there are some pending requests.

Staff Council Update –

Alonzo Bouldin reported that Chief Randy Vibrock will attend the next Staff Council meeting on November 6 to give a safety update, and Mr. Bouldin said all staff would be encouraged to attend. He also noted that there is one vacancy on Staff Council, the group is creating committees, and Staff Council is taking nominations for the next Owl Star Award.

SGA Update –

In the absence of John Jacob Miller, Jessica Harpole noted that SGA helped sponsor the recent Job and Grad Student Fair.

Other Updates –

President Miller reminded the Administrative Council members that the Starkville Symphony will have a free concert on campus Sunday, October 6 at 2 p.m. in Rent Auditorium, and the Welty Gala is set for October 11.

Dr. Marty Brock said two candidates for Director of Human Resources will be on campus October 9 and 10.

Ms. Lowery mentioned that a Degree Works consultant was on campus last week and will begin scribing the academic catalogs on October 14.

Dr. Tammie McCoy said the rest of the Speech-Language Pathology Department will move into Turner Hall next week.

Amanda Clay Powers encouraged Administrative Council members to attend Halloween Movie Night at the Library on October 24, and she talked about an upcoming writing workshop.

Anika Perkins announced that National Transfer Week is October 21-25, and she said the university will host a special event on October 23.

Ms. Clay said upcoming changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act include increasing the threshold for exempt employees to \$35,568. She said those moving from exempt to non-exempt will need record exact hours worked.

Laura Quinn mentioned that open enrollment for health care plans is October 14-17.

Andrea Stevens said the faculty/staff giving campaign went well.

Policies –

Following a motion by Dr. Tammie McCoy and second by Dr. Marty Brock, the Administrative Council voted to recommend President Miller approve editorial changes to the following five policies:

1. PS 3101 – Free Speech and Assembly
2. PS 3102 – Use of Tobacco and Simulated Tobacco
3. PS 3515 – Academic Council
4. PS 3533 – Teacher Education Council
5. PS 3546 – Enrollment Management Council