

11/5/21 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

Participated in Zoom meeting: Dr. Brian Anderson, Mea Ashley, Angie Atkins, Dr. Marty Brock, Dr. David Brooking, Aaron Brooks, Karen Clay, Jennifer Claybrook, Mark Ellard, Rodney Godfrey, Ashley Hammack, Jessica Harpole, Erinn Holloway, Jody Kennedy, Dr. Brandy Larmon, Luis Leal, Melinda Lowe, Carla Lowery, Shannon Lucius, Dr. Hunter Manasco, Penny Mansell, Iika McCarter, Dr. Tammie McCoy, President Nora Miller, Jennifer Moore, Andrew Moneymaker, Nicole Patrick, Anika Perkins, Amanda Clay Powers, Laura Quinn, Ginger Smith, Andrea Stevens, Dr. Scott Tollison, Chief Randy Vibrock, Dr. Kim Whitehead, and Ken Widner

President Nora Miller called the meeting to order.

Minutes -

Following a motion by Amanda Clay Powers and a second by Dr. Tammie McCoy, the minutes from the October 2021 meeting were approved.

University Update –

President Miller spoke about IHL's recent action on the federal COVID vaccine mandate. Because The W does not have federal contracts, the university falls under the IHL Board's previous action that it cannot require its employees be vaccinated. President Miller mentioned the new OSHA vaccine mandate for businesses does not apply to The W and other state and local government employers since Mississippi does not have an OSHA "state plan."

President Miller acknowledged October was a busy month for the university with the IHL Board visit and Welty Weekend. She thanked the group for their hard work on these important events.

Strategic Plan Pillar Discussion-Advancement Excellence –

The Administrative Council is discussing a pillar of the university's new Strategic Plan each month. Andrea Stevens led this month's discussion on advancement excellence, which features five goals:

- Continue a culture of giving
- Foster pride in the university and its programs
- Offer more programs representative of diverse alumni base
- Provide resources to assist students financially
- Enhance services to shape career-ready graduates

Ms. Stevens presented several PowerPoint slides about the Be the Light capital campaign. The MUW Foundation Board voted in spring 2017 to move forward with the recommended goal of \$15 million over five years. The Board publicly announced in spring 2021 that the campaign exceeded \$17 million and would increase the goal to \$25 million and extend three years. As of September 30, 2021, more than \$20 million has been collected in the form of cash gifts, pledges, gift annuities and bequests. The money has been raised for four categories: scholarships, athletics, facilities/programs and endowment. Examples of major gifts given during the campaign are a \$250,000 donation

from the Vandergriffs and a \$250,000 match from the Bower Foundation for the Simulation Learning Lab and the Multipurpose Skills Lab in Nursing and a Steinway grand piano given by the Gilpin family. Ms. Stevens said the goal is match donors with campus needs, and she noted that the capital campaign has strengthened the relationship of alumni and the university. She thanked participants of the Faculty/Staff Giving Campaign, noting that 18 offices had 100 percent participation with 36 employees either making new or increased contributions.

President Miller brought up that IHL announced this week the system's fall enrollment numbers, which are about the same as last fall while MUW (down 8.4%) and most of the other regional institutions are down. She feels this is due to COVID and less 18-year-olds. She stressed that everyone needs to do their part to recruit and retain students.

University Calendar –

Anika Perkins reported the university has discussed a university calendar that speaks with all of the other calendar programs on campus for several years, but a solution has not been found yet. As a short-term solution, the university will again use the Joomla add-on for calendars. It should be available later this month. Rich Sobolewski will provide instructions for using it as each department will be responsible for uploading information to the calendar. Not only will the calendar be on the website so students and the community can learn about campus events, but it will also serve as a tool for departments planning events so multiple events won't be booked for the same day. Angie Atkins noted that EMS is important for keeping up with events, and President Miller agreed saying the MUW Police Department uses EMS to know where events and meetings are on campus in case of a security issue. Amanda Clay Powers mentioned that the facilities in the library are not in EMS, and Ms. Atkins said the library can be added as a user so events in the library will show up in EMS. This is done for Pohl Gym and Plymouth Bluff too.

Faculty Senate Update –

Dr. Hunter Manasco said Faculty Senate generated a memo to the Faculty Research Committee requesting the committee include additional fees for the purpose of presenting research at conferences. He reported that \$2,480 has been awarded for faculty development so far from Fund A, and \$1,000 has been awarded from Fund B.

Staff Council Update –

Ashley Hammack announced that the Salvation Army toy drive will start November 8 and will conclude with the Staff Recognition Luncheon and Meeting on December 9. Collection bins will be put in most buildings. President Miller added that the Staff Recognition Luncheon and Meeting will be done differently this year so that social distancing can be achieved. Staff will have the opportunity to sign up for one of three lunch shifts (11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m.) with each shift lasting 45 minutes so Sodexo will have time to refresh the room between shifts.

SGA Update –

Luis Leal said SGA is looking at a student activity fee and plans to send out a survey about this to students.

Other Updates –

President Miller reminded the group that the Unity Project and the screening of “Just Mercy,” which is based on the book by Bryan Stevenson, will take place next week.

Ms. Perkins mentioned the university will have a Veterans Day program on November 11 at 10 a.m. in Pioneers Plaza. The guest speaker will be Melissa Bridges of Columbus Air Force Base.

Ms. Powers said the Library’s IDEA Committee pick for November is *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander. Book club discussions will be held on November 17 at noon.

Policies –

Following a motion by Carla Lowery and a second by Dr. Tammie McCoy, the Administrative Council voted to accept the following policies into the review process:

- PS 1305 (Procedures for Conferring Emeritus Rank on Retiring Faculty)
- PS 1309 (Course Syllabi)
- PS 3503 (Institutional Review Board)
- PS 3546 (Enrollment Management Council)

Following a motion by Mark Ellard and a second by Dr. Manasco, the meeting was adjourned.