

### **3/4/22 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes**

**Participated in Zoom meeting:** Dr. Brian Anderson, Mea Ashley, Angie Atkins, Cameron Eaves for Dr. David Brooking, Karen Clay, Jennifer Claybrook, Mark Ellard, Jessica Harpole, Dr. Marty Hatton, Erinn Holloway, Jody Kennedy, Dr. Brandy Larmon, Luis Leal, Melinda Lowe, 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, Randy Vibrock, Dr. Deb Wells, 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. Hunter Manasco, the minutes from the February 2022 meeting were approved.

#### **University Update** –

President Miller noted the campus mask mandate was removed because of the new CDC guidelines, but Administrative Council will continue to meet by Zoom because the previous meeting space is being used as classroom space.

She mentioned the House approved the Senate bill on critical race theory and it is waiting on approval by Governor Reeves. There is still a great deal of talk about what can be done with the state CARES money. She is hopeful the university will receive money from the state to expand the nursing program. President Miller also said it does not appear the state budget will be settled before the end of the regular session so a special session may be needed.

President Miller said many people are beginning to work on the university's next SACS reaffirmation.

#### **Strategic Plan Pillar Discussion-Degree Completion** –

The Administrative Council is discussing a pillar of the university's new Strategic Plan each month. This month's discussion was on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Co-Diversity Officers Karen Clay and Anika Perkins along with Andrea Stevens and Amanda Clay Powers each discussed a goal under Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, which are:

Goal 1 – Create an Inclusive and Equitable Campus Climate Reflective of the Growing Diversity in our Communities, State and Nation

Goal 2 – Communicate Mission and/or Vision Statement on Inclusive Values

Goal 3 – Connect Internal and External Constituencies to Opportunities at the University

Goal 4 – Capture, Promote and Enhance Overall Curriculum and Programming that Enhances Multicultural Awareness and Understanding

- Ms. Clay said the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council (DEI Council) was created in August 2020. It includes 21 members with wide campus representation. The Administrative Council formerly adopted PS 3548 on the DEI Council in December 2020. The policy sets forth the responsibilities of the DEI Council, which are to review policies, to work with others to advance diversity, equity and inclusion on campus and to select the Diversity Educator of the Year award recipient and the Impact Award for campus each year.
- Ms. Perkins showed the DEI Council website, which is [www.muw.edu/diversity](http://www.muw.edu/diversity). She noted there is a great deal of information housed on the website, and she encouraged the Administrative Council members to review it and to make suggestions for improvement. Ms. Perkins also noted the Fall 2021 issue of Visions featured stories about each pillar of the Strategic Plan, including Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The next issue of Visions will focus on access to all. Visions is distributed to 21,000 alumni and friends of the university.
- Ms. Stevens mentioned ways the MUW Alumni Association works to connect students and alumni. The annual Scholarship Donor Luncheon is a chance for scholarship donors and the student recipients to visit with each other. This can be a networking opportunity too. The BLUE Event (Building Leadership Understanding and Education) is held annually with this year's theme being "Resiliency, Relevance and Reinvention." The keynote speaker was Dr. Thompson, founder of She Wins Global, a nonprofit organization that advances women and girls in vulnerable communities around the globe. Ms. Stevens also noted the MUW Alumni Association has a DEI Committee that has the goal to encourage young minority alumni.
- Ms. Powers said the selection of "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson as this year's Common Read Initiative has been the center point in enhancing multicultural awareness and understanding on campus. There have been discussions about the book that is about social injustice and the prison system. The Columbus-Lowndes Public Library collaborated with The W on this and got a grant for programming in Lowndes County. A Community Development Committee has been formed, and The W was invited to join. Ms. Powers also mentioned the IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility) Book Club.

#### **Faculty Senate Update –**

Dr. Hunter Manasco said Faculty Senate has awarded 17 Fund A requests in the amount of about \$5,000 to offset the costs of faculty travel to conferences, workshops and other venues of professional development. There have been six Fund B requests awarded in the amount of about \$2,000 to strengthen classroom teaching. Dr. Manasco also mentioned Senate bill 2113 on critical race theory. The Faculty Senate passed a resolution in opposition to the bill. He said the bill is dangerously vague and Faculty Senate feels it is problematic to have the Legislature stepping into the classrooms to restrict what is taught and to infringe on educational freedom.

#### **Staff Council Update –**

No report

### **SGA Update** –

Luis Leal said SGA has read the Faculty Senate resolution on critical race theory and plans to adopt its own resolution after it gets a feel for what the student body knows about critical race theory. He also noted SGA is planning three events for the spring semester.

### **Other Updates** –

Mark Ellard gave an update on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) funds the university has received. There have been three rounds of federal funding:

- HEERF I - \$1,094,031 was received for student distribution, and \$1,094,030 was for institutional use for a total of \$2,188,061.
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)/HEERF II - \$1,094,031 was received for student distribution, and \$2,669,152 was for institutional use for a total of \$3,763,183.
- American Rescue Plan (ARP)/HEERF III - \$3,396,277 was received for student distribution, and \$2,981,098 was for institutional use for a total of \$6,377,375.

A total of \$13,778,218 (\$5,584,339 for students and \$6,744,280 for the institution) has been received to date. The university also received \$915,396.96 from the \$1.25 billion State of Mississippi CARES Act Relief Fund. Of the total funds received for students, \$1,135,726 is unspent. Applications are open to students, and he hopes to have the money distributed by the end of the semester. Mr. Ellard thanked Financial Aid and University Accounting staff for managing this money. Of the institutional funds received, \$188,833.41 was spent on computers, \$162,908.29 on medical expenses, \$176,817.38 on technology upgrades, \$498,805.76 on cleaning and sanitation, \$39,387.72 on PPE, \$28,687.67 on salaries and \$2,259,983.15 on other. There is a total of \$3,388,856.62 unspent funds to date. Some future projects include \$804,129.05 on the network infrastructure upgrade, and the needlepoint biopolar ionization and controls upgrade has not been bid yet. There also will be indirect costs and lost revenue that the university can go back and claim. Mr. Ellard noted that more information can be found on the university's coronavirus page under federal reporting. The deadline to spend the money is May 2022. All of the IHL institutions have asked for an extension that should give the university an additional year to complete the planned projects.

### **Policies** –

Following a motion by Dr. Tammie McCoy and a second by Ms. Powers, the Administrative Council voted to accept PS 1313 (Criteria and Procedures for Faculty Salary Increases), PS 3535 (MUW Staff Council) and PS 3539 (MUW Directors Council) into the review process.