

9/2/22 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

Participated in Zoom meeting: Dr. Brian Anderson, Mea Ashley, Angie Atkins, Dr. Dorothy Berglund, Russell Brandon, Dr. Marty Brock, Dr. David Brooking, Aaron Brooks, Karen Clay, Jennifer Claybrook, Rachael Damms, Mark Ellard, Rodney Godfrey, Jessica Harpole, Dr. Marty Hatton, Erinn Holloway, Dr. Holleen Krogh, Dr. Brandy Larmon, Melinda Lowe, Carla Lowery, Shannon Lucius, Iika McCarter, President Nora Miller, Jennifer Moore, Andrew Money maker, Nicole Patrick, Mackenzie Pearce, Anika Perkins, Amanda Clay Powers, Laura Quinn, Ginger Smith, Susan Sobley, Andrea Stevens, Dr. Scott Tollison, Dr. Deb Wells, Dr. Kim Whitehead, and Ken Widner

President Nora Miller called the meeting to order.

Minutes -

Following a motion by Russell Brandon and a second by Carla Lowery, the minutes from the May 2022 meeting were approved.

University Update –

President Miller welcome several new members and recognized those who remain on the council but have changed positions.

She said the new academic year is off to a good start. Although the university is not able to release fall enrollment numbers yet, she noted enrollment is down some from last fall. A surge in dual enrollment/dual credit has helped to keep the numbers close to last fall's numbers. Ruffalo Noel Levitz has offered to do a complimentary 2-day refresh of the university's enrollment plan and look at ways to freshen up recruitment efforts. This will be scheduled for October.

President Miller mentioned the financials for FY 22 are being completed. IHL has submitted budget requests for FY 24 with increasing faculty and staff salaries remaining a top priority. She touched on IHL's 4-year bond bill plan and then added that the university is pursuing additional funding through the state of Mississippi's CARES funds earmarked for either infrastructure or healthcare. The university feels it can best use these funds to expand the nursing program to help with the shortage of nurses in the state. About 94% of The W's nursing graduates remain in the state. The university has already received \$2.5 million for preplanning and if successful in receiving additional funding, the plan is to renovate Fant Hall to expand Nursing.

Faculty Senate Update –

Dr. Holleen Krogh said Faculty Senate's first meeting of the semester is scheduled for September 9. They will form a committee to review Fund A and Fund B requests with there being seven applications for Fund A already. She said Faculty Senate plans to look at the group's constitution since it has not been reviewed since prior to the start of the pandemic.

Staff Council Update –

Rachael Damms said Staff Council's next meeting is set for September 7.

SGA Update –

Mackenzie Pearce said SGA's main goal to start the academic year was to recruit for the SGA Senate. Elections are set for today, and there are 15 students running for positions. She also mentioned President Miller ordered hammock stands that have been installed on the Dem Field. Students can check out the nine available hammocks from the Rec Center or use their own.

Other Updates –

Carla Lowery announced that the university will participate in the multi-agency Lowndes County Emergency Drill on September 8. It will be a tornado drill taking place mostly off-campus, but the university will stand up the Crisis Action Team to run through a simulated tornado drill.

Mark Ellard reported a 500-ton cooling unit that cools the south campus residence halls has gone down due to a broken shaft. It should take a couple of days to get the shaft repaired. He also noted the grounds crew has been short on personnel, but they are working on that and may contract with outside help to get the campus grounds back to its usual condition.

Anika Perkins said the website is now in phase two of the redesign. This phase will include academic departments. She asked for patience as they work through this process. President Miller added that it is important to add all events to the calendar on the website so all will be aware of the various events going on.

Laura Quinn mentioned the university has a new Employee Assistance Program through Lifeworks that has enhanced wellness features through its app. Employees can view introductory videos on the website and participate in Lifeworks' monthly live orientation webinars. The next webinar is September 21, and a webinar for managers is set for October 5.

President Miller concluded the meeting by asking the members to think of ways to recruit more students, to promote the university and to streamline processes for our students.