

2/2/24 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Dr. Brian Anderson, Russell Brandon, Dr. David Brooking, Aaron Brooks, Melissa Buxton, Karen Clay, Buddy Foster, Wesley Garrett, Rodney Godfrey, Jessica Harpole, Dr. Marty Hatton, Erinn Holloway, Jody Kennedy, Dr. Holleen Krogh, Dr. Brandy Larmon, Shannon Lucius, Iika McCarter, Tequila McCoy, President Nora Miller, Dr. Clear Moore, Jennifer Moore, Andrew Moneymaker, Nicole Patrick, Anika Perkins, Amanda Clay Powers, Laura Quinn, Ginger Smith, Susan Soble, Andrea Stevens, Dr. Scott Tollison, Randy Vibrock, Dr. Deb Wells, Dr. Kim Whitehead and Elise Wilson

President Nora Miller called the meeting to order.

Minutes -

Following a motion from Russell Brandon and a second by Amanda Clay Powers, the December 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

University Update –

President Miller called attention to the Mississippi Today story about the name change process that posted on February 1 where reporter Molly Minta was incorrect at saying the university operates at a deficit of \$18 million. This amount is the university's operating deficit before net non-operating revenues (mainly tuition, grants and contracts) are added in. When those were added in, the university had a surplus of \$2.5 million. All IHL universities start with an operating loss. She has contacted Ms. Minta about correcting the information.

President Miller reported the Naming Taskforce is working on the final analysis of the naming survey which will be provided to her next week. The report will be posted on the website. She noted that the university is moving forward with a name change, and the driver is enrollment. She does not feel pausing the process another year is the correct thing to do.

Noting some negativity on FaceBook surrounding the proposed names, she mentioned there is some speculation the IHL Board is forcing her to do the name change. She said this is not true. She is pushing for a name change because the university needs a name that is inclusive and promotes who we are today and going forward. President Miller said she is not for changing the historic mission. Instead, the university is trying to strengthen the mission with the creation of the Women's College. An agenda item was submitted for the February IHL Board meeting, but due to the controversy surrounding the name change, IHL pulled the item and will defer it for a later meeting. She noted she has also heard there is a rumor of a big donor who is pushing this in order to make a large gift. This is not true, although large gifts to the MUW Foundation are welcome anytime. She has also heard that some might think she is pushing a name change through and then she will retire. President Miller said this is not her plan. Her hope is to see this through for at least a couple of years. She also mentioned there have been some incredibly kind people

who have written her personally, and some have sent cookies, cakes and flowers. She hopes these people also are sending letters to their legislators supporting a name change.

President Miller noted there has been a real rally around The W: A Mississippi University. Some alumni presented a proposal for that to the Taskforce. It was a very well-done marketing presentation, using our registered trademark. She feels there are some pieces of the presentation that can be used, but The W: A Mississippi University does not really work as a University name because it needs to be a legitimate name that can be used on a diploma, a transcript and a resume. Once the name is chosen, the university will start getting some graphics out and hopefully there will be more support.

President Miller thanked everyone on the taskforce and the campus for all their hard work. If possible, she asked the Administrative Council members to speak positively for change and speak positively for the name when it is announced. She also encouraged sending letters to legislators advocating change and the chosen name, but it needs to be done in a personal capacity and not with official position, on W letterhead or using W email. President Miller also asked the Administrative Council members to let University Relations know of the good things that are going on in their areas so they can put out positive news and have events included in the Dispatch's calendar.

Amanda Clay Powers, co-chair of the Naming Task Force, added that the Naming Task Force is putting together a timeline of the 18-month process in addition to a report from the survey. She also noted there are 20 people on the Naming Task Force and 10 of them are alumni. There are 291 collective years of service to the university on the Task Force.

Faculty Senate Update –

Dr. Holly Krogh reported the Faculty Senate passed a resolution in favor of an improved parental leave policy. The plan is for all of the Mississippi IHL Faculty Senates to do resolutions and send them to IHL. She also mentioned there have been no new applications or awards for Fund A (faculty travel) or Fund B (improvements in classroom teaching).

Staff Council Update –

Tequila McCoy thanked Ms. Powers for speaking at the recent staff forum about the name change process. She also noted Staff Council will start the office recognitions back this month.

SGA Update –

No report.

Other Updates –

Dr. David Brooking reported 45 students are signed up for today's open house, and Scholarship Recognition Day is set for February 23. Dr. Brooking requested Admissions to be notified about any campus events for prospective students so information about the students can be added to Slate.

Laura Quinn reminded the group today is the last day to submit January leave reports. If employees have issues completing the report in Banner Self Service now that Banner Web has been removed, they should call Human Resources.

Anika Perkins mentioned while her office is short a webmaster, Tyler Wheat and IT are helping in that area. Those making requests should be mindful that it may take longer than usual.

Policies –

Following a motion by Russell Brandon and a second by Ms. Powers, the Administrative Council voted to recommend President Miller approve changes to PS 3507 (Faculty Research Committee).

Following a motion by Mr. Brandon and second by Dr. Krogh, the Administrative Council voted to recommend President Miller approve changes to PS 3528 (Faculty Appeals Committee).

With a motion by Dr. Marty Hatton and a second by Mr. Brandon, the Administrative Council meeting adjourned.