

3/1/24 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Dr. Brian Anderson, Cathryn Borer, Russell Brandon, Dr. David Brooking, Aaron Brooks, Melissa Buxton, Karen Clay, Marla Fisher, Buddy Foster, Wesley Garrett, Rodney Godfrey, Jessica Harpole, Dr. Marty Hatton, Jody Kennedy, Dr. Brandy Larmon, Shannon Lucius, Tequila McCoy, President Nora Miller, Dr. Clear Moore, Jennifer Moore, Andrew Money maker, Nicole Patrick, Anika Perkins, Amanda Clay Powers, Laura Quinn, Ginger Smith, Susan Sobley, Andrea Stevens, Dr. Scott Tollison, Randy Vibrock, Dr. Kim Whitehead, Elise Wilson and Dr. Lestonio Yarbrough

President Nora Miller called the meeting to order.

Minutes -

Following a motion from Amanda Clay Powers and a second by Carla, the February 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

University Update –

President Miller noted she was attending the Women in Higher Education Mississippi Network in Oxford and would be participating as a panelist.

President Miller acknowledged some disappointment from campus in being able to move the new name forward. She understands campus was invested and explained that the committee chair didn't feel there were enough votes to get it out of the House, particularly with tougher issues already on legislators' plate. She said campus will rest, take a breath and reset. Miller apologized for the emotional roller coaster the process has been for everyone.

President Miller also talked about bills put forth to close three universities and to relocate MSMS to MSU. She said SB 2726 wasn't expected to go anywhere and that the senator who proposed it stated the same thing. Miller said she believes the goal was to examine the funding formula and the pending enrollment cliff. President Miller said she wasn't worried about it especially given our university's nursing programs and performance when it comes to students graduating with low debt and high graduation rates. As for SB 2715, Miller said a lot of groundwork has taken place over the past year, including legislators coming to campus to look at facilities and funding being requested to improve facilities for MSMS. Additionally, we are looking at the Campus Master Plan and Classroom Utilization to help guide facility usage on campus. Miller said the bill was introduced by the chair of that committee and on Feb. 29, she and the mayor of Columbus board president of the supervisors attended the meeting to show their interest and concern. MS Senator Chuck Younger and Andy Boyd also were in attendance. President Miller underscored that it's important for campus to make sure that we are being the best partners that we can with MSMS. She emphasized the importance of their 300 students to The W's campus.

President Miller said it was too early for discussions around appropriation bills.

She added that PERS was a hot topic, particularly employer contributions.

President Miller said our external lobbyists have been keeping us informed and that she and Karen Clay were spending more time in Jackson.

She thanked everyone for their hard work and to continue spreading the good news and continue to focus on what we do well.

President Miller mentioned the upcoming SACS visit next week as well as Spring Break.

SACS Onsite Visit

Carla Lowery said everything was set for the SACS visit March 4-7. She said the main focus would be the QEP and reminded everyone to be familiar with it. Lowery said she felt good about the visit and didn't have any concerns.

Career Services and Professional Center Update

Elise Wilson said the Center has gone through a lot of changes since her arrival and explained that their main goals were to offer professional development opportunities and to be a conduit between employers and students. She added that they are building relationships through open houses (next one tentatively scheduled in August), health career fairs (last one included 32 employers and graduate schools and 220 students), their new strong interest inventory tool (to identify students' interest related to their potential, through services such as resume and cover letter writing) and Handshake—the No. 1 college-to-career platform tool in the nation. Wilson explained that the strong interest survey would be used in UN101 in the fall. She also said they are excited about upcoming Emotional Intelligence professional development and LDR 399 Career Readiness Course, which will be offered in the fall. The Center also plans to award two to three scholarships through their Professional Development Scholarship Program next year. Wilson also mentioned their Professional Development Certificate Program that covers eight competencies available to students. Wilson discussed the QEP, which focuses on career readiness, the high impact experience for students and students being able to connect the dots of career readiness and their impact experience through reflection and articulation.

Faculty Senate Update –

Dr. Lestonio Yarbrough reported on behalf of Dr. Holly Krogh. She said they awarded 16 Fund A applications for a total of \$5,600 out of \$8,000 and three Fund B applications for a total of \$1,825 out of \$3,000.

Staff Council Update –

Tequila McCoy announced that University Relations was recognized as Office of the Month for its work over the past few weeks with the name process. She also thanked everyone for their efforts and involvement with the process. She reminded everyone that March 15 was the deadline to nominate an Owl Star.

SGA Update –

No report.

Other Updates –

Dr. David Brooking reported that freshmen confirmations were up and ahead from last year's and transfers were about the same. He encouraged faculty advisers to go ahead and start registering students. He also announced Early Scholars Orientation for freshmen April 12 and Early Scholars Orientation for transfer students April 19. Brooking also reminded members present that everyone on campus has a role in recruitment and to be sure to contact him or Iika McCarter when they host recruitment events.

Carla Lowery discussed construction projects and the kickoff meeting with the architects for the Jones Hall renovation project. She said they also met with MSMS about renovations to their facilities and noted the current roofing projects taking place around campus. Lowery mentioned the lockdown drill and asked individuals to email her if there were any issues.

Jennifer Moore asked everyone to participate in the Great Colleges to Work For Survey, which is open from March 4-29.

Rodney Godfrey said they were deploying Endpoint security software, which offers advanced protection tools. It should go live in three to four weeks.

Buddy Foster, Director of Athletics, and Asia Duren, Director of Student Life, were new Council members who were recognized. Marla Fisher, Director of Development and Cathryn Borer, Director of Alumni Relations, also were introduced.

Dr. Brian Anderson announced the upcoming Eighth Annual Music by Women Festival, March 7-9, which will feature 15 free concerts.

Policies –

Following a motion by Dr. David Brooking and a second by Russell Brandon, the Administrative Council agreed to minor edit to PS 3504 (Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee) and that it be accepted into the review process.

With a motion by Russell Brandon and a second by Dr. David Brooking, the Administrative Council meeting adjourned.