

2/6/2026 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

Participated: President Nora Miller, Brian Anderson, Brandie Branch, David Brooking, Melissa Buxton, Trish Caston, Josh Dohmen, Kendall Dunkelberg, Asia Duren, Kara Gipson, Rodney Godfrey, Jessica Harpole, Marty Hatton, Erinn Holloway, Tina Horton, Jessi Jobe, Brandy Larmon, Matthew Miles, Jennifer Moore, Andrew Moneymaker, Chad Murphy, Nicole Patrick, Anika Perkins, Hillary Richardson, Laura Quinn, Melissa Smith, Susan Sobley, Scott Tollison, Randy Vibrock, Elise Wilson, Kim Whitehead, Kelly Woodford , Zander Hall

President Miller called the meeting to order.

Minutes -

Following a motion from Kelly Woodford and a second by Marty Hatton the December 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

University Update –

President Miller is pleased with the Crisis Action Team and Residence Life in implementing a plan in case we did have to deal with an ice storm or loss of power. The first phase of action, we encouraged students in the residence halls to go home if they could. Thanks to everyone who had a part in making those preparations. Areas from the Delta to Memphis were hit hard.

President Miller reported they will continue to follow legislative action by covering the Capitol, watching Senate hearings being streamed, and checking in with our lobbyists and liaisons from the other universities. The first deadline for reports on bills to come from committees in the originating house was Tuesday. A “Safe Dormitories Act” which would have been costly and not feasible did not survive the day. We continue to monitor the bill for a study of IHL Governance and one that morphs the Education Attainment Council (EAC) into M-PAC that is moving forward. The EAC has 2 IHL Board members, the Commissioner and three IHL Presidents for 6 out of 25 members. The M-PAC would be moved from IHL to the Workfuture Institute and IHL would be represented by the Commissioner and one IHL president for 2 out of 23 seats. This further diminishes the value of the four-year degree in the Ascent to 55% mix and sidelines the universities.

NCHEMS, the consulting firm working with IHL on a new funding model, has been visiting universities this week and next. They will be on our campus Thursday, Feb 12. They will be meeting with Cabinet and Deans, meeting with IR, IT and Finance to discuss data that might be a part of the model and getting our feedback, then they will meet with a student group, and if time allows, get a campus tour.

President Miller gave an update on the Newsweek rating of the 750 best universities for women. We ranked the highest of any university in MS, and were #14 out of 750! We can add that to our highest pay for Pell grant recipients 4 years post-graduation, #1 Nursing an SLP programs, Best Value, least amount of student debt, highest percentage

MS students, least amount of institutional debt and deferred maintenance, best college to work for.

This week we dedicated the Holland Hollow Student Athlete Center – a total transformation of the Hogarth Student Center Auditorium, made possible by the generosity of 2 of our alumni, Becky Smith and Sandy Holland.

Kris Lee gave his Humanities lecture on Wednesday afternoon, and we have many more activities the rest of this month.

Special events for prospective students include a Campus Connections Day at Shelton State Community College and the Science Bowl and Music Day which will both take place Friday, February 20th.

If your area has any special events planned for Black History Month or for this month or next, please post these events on the campus calendar and give University Relations time to publicize the events.

PIE Council has been busy with recommending the FY 2027 budget priorities with Degree Completion and Financial Sustainability being the top priorities, and Academic Excellence, Advancement Excellence and Community Connections being secondary priorities. Dr. Anderson will share more about the Strategic Plan update. If anyone has any questions or comments for me now, we can take those – or I will turn this over to Dr. Anderson.

Strategic Plan Updates-

Dr. Anderson gave the following updates PIE Council had officially 20 members, but we have expanded to 36 for this process. It includes, people representing several units that we're not represented on PIE Council or enhancing representation in areas such as Student Affairs, Faculty Senate, Alums. Members of this group of 36 idea, is to broaden the discussion, and ultimately the decisions about what will be recommended to the cabinet as we develop these strategic priorities and goals in 2026.

Part of the process will include input sessions on campus:

- February 16th for Alumni and Community that was organized by Elise Wilson.
- February 17th for Students that's organized by Ethan Wilkins and Zander Hall.
- TBA for Faculty and Staff.

Participants in those sessions will be presented with the SPG 2021 to use as an idea of what we're aiming for.

Dr. Anderson reported the first meeting of Expanded PIE Council was on the 23rd of January. The next meeting, is February 27th, and hopes to really get into the details what priorities and goals best for us in the 2026 plan.

Faculty Senate Update –

Dr. Chad Murphy reported Faculty Senate will meet Friday, February 13, 2026. They have \$0 in Fund A and Fund B has \$1,410.

Staff Council Update-

Dr. Matthew Milles reported for Tina Horton due to audio issues. Staff Council will not meet until next week. Staff Council will do the Employee Appreciation in March. They are looking for staff to join The Council.

SGA Update –

Zander Hall reported PIE Plus Student Session on the 17th of February at 6pm in the tiered classroom. The session is estimated from 6 to 7 for about 1 hour. SGA will host their regular Senate meeting from 7 to 9 on the 17th

Zander reported Project Hoot is our campus-wide initiative, where we go out to the community and help different organizations off campus. This event will take place March 28th beginning at 8 a.m. with breakfast sponsored by the BSU. Lunch will be provided.

Zander Hall reported elections in a couple weeks for senators, Board, Hall of Fame, and Mr. and Mrs. MUW. Faculty and staff are going to get an email next week about nominations for Mr. and Mrs. MUW.

Zander Hall updated on the graduation stoles that SGA is waiting to hear back from University Relations about the licensing agreement. They are in the process of gathering logos from all the student organizations on campus. We are hoping that the forms for this will go out on February 16th to all the students that are graduating.

Zander Hall reported the following events:

Black History Month event partnering with W Leadership.
Monday February 9th, at 6pm.

February Nest Night.
Wednesday, February 11 at 5 p.m.

Other Updates-

Laura Quinn -HR Updates: The deadline to complete staff annual performance evaluations is February 13. Also, two new trainings from Traliant were implemented and March 27 is the deadline to complete the training courses.

Dr. Matthew Miles from the Culture, Commuter, and Access Committee have a few people around campus that email me on Black History events, and I'll email those out to everyone.

Elise Wilson reminded everyone that the Career Services and Professional Development Center is hosting the Healthcare Career Fair Thursday, February the 12th, from 10.30 to 1.30 in Pohl Gym.

Anika Perkins updated everyone on the ADA. January 22nd session was full, and we've got additional sessions coming up.

The upcoming ADA Sessions are:

February 25th.

March 12th,

April the 16th.

February 25th will be added to the site. This meeting will focus on social media.

Jennifer Moore-Faculty and Staff Satisfaction Surveys are currently being administered from today Feb. 6 to Feb. 20. Please encourage your employees to provide their feedback. Each employee should have received a personal email with a unique link to take the survey. The initial emails went out early this morning.

Policies –

The following policies were reviewed by Dr. Kim Whitehead and with the following modifications for the Disability Accommodations Appeals and Grievances Committee.

#2 modify first sentence: A pool of six members from Academic Affairs shall be identified by the CAO and a pool of three from Student Affairs shall be identified by the Vice President for Student Affairs.

#3A add after third sentence: In the event of a tie in voting, the original decision will be upheld.

The Administrative Council voted as followed:

Dr. Tollison asked for a motion to approve the Disability Accommodations Appeals and Grievances Committee. Dr. Josh Dohmen 1st and Dr. Matthew Miles 2nd. The Administrative Council approved the policy.

With review from Dr. Kim Whitehead, Dr. Tollison asked for a motion to approve the Accessibility Committee policy. Hillary Richardson 1st and Trish Caston 2nd the motion to approve. The Administrative Council approved the policy.

Dr. Tollison asked for other updates.

Dr. Tollison asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Matthew Miles 1st and Dean Kelly Woodford 2nd.

Meeting adjourned.