9/4/2026 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

Participated: Scott Tollison, Brian Anderson, Brandie Branch, Marty Brock, Aaron Brooks, Trish Caston, Jianwen Crump, Kriste DiClemente, Josh Dohmen, Hope Durst, Rodney Godfrey, Glen Halbert, Zander Hall, Marty Hatton, Erinn Holloway, Jessi Jobe, Brandy Larmon, Dee Larson, Shannon Lucius, Penny Mansell, Matthew Miles, Clear Moore, Jennifer Moore, Andrew Moneymaker, Nicole Patrick, Anika Perkins, Laura Quinn, Malia Schimminger Melissa Smith, Susan Sobley, Randy Vibrock, Kim Whitehead, Elise Wilson, Kelly Woodford

President Tollison called the meeting to order.

Minutes -
Following a motion from Marty Brock and a second by Penny Mansell the May 2026 meeting minutes were approved.

University Updates-
Dr. Tollison gave a brief update on the presidential search. He encouraged to follow the official IHL search website for information.

Dr. Tollison updated the council on the IHL funding formula. A conceptual framework is expected later in the fall, with a working framework targeted for the 2027 legislative session.

Dr. Tollison gave a legislative update on two legislative select committees particularly relevant to MUW: consolidation and specialty schools.

Dr, Tollison updated the council on Enrollment, rankings, and institutional momentum.

- Early enrollment indicators are positive, with increases reported across several categories, including new students, freshmen, transfers, and full-time students.

- Time, Money, and Washington Monthly, each of which placed MUW at or near the top among Mississippi institutions according to the measures used in their respective rankings.

Dr. Whitehead updated the council that (IHL) is developing a coordinated, policy-based response to the U.S. Department of Education's new national "Call to Action" for higher education.

Faculty Senate-
Dr. J. Crump informed the council that the faculty senate meeting is open to all faculty members as it is a public meeting, and will hold their first meeting next Friday, September 11, 2026 at noon. Updates will be provided after that meeting.

Staff Council-

Ashley Williams informed the council that Staff Council does not have any updates at this time from Jordan Barlow Staff Council President.

SGA-

Zander Hall gave the following updates from the SGA.

- Student Professional Attire Initiative: Exploring Foundation funding and campus space to provide students with attire for interviews, formal dinners, and professional events.
- Wednesday was the second Nest Sign featured SGA elections, with over 285 students voting—the highest turnout in four years. There were also 13 nominees for Mr. MUW, the most in recent years.
- SGA is exploring a wellness fee and plans to conduct a student needs assessment to identify current resources, gaps, and opportunities for additional wellness education and financial support.
- The first Senate retreat is tonight, and first Senate meeting will be on the 14th of September

Other Updates-

Randy Vibrock gave an update to the council on the Annual Disaster Drill scheduled for September 10, 2026 in coordination with Lowndes County and the Nursing Department.

- Drill will begin at 8:05 a.m. with tornado warning signs activated across campus.
- Scenarios will include a tornado drill and a chemical release scenario related to the railroad.
- Multiple W Alerts will be sent during the exercise; all alerts will clearly indicate that they are part of the drill.
- Employees who are not participating should use this opportunity to review and familiarize themselves with their designated shelter-in-place locations.
- Drill activity will be concentrated on the southeast corner of campus, near the Laundry Building, Foreman Arts Center, and the MSMS maintenance area.
- University Relations will distribute official information/publications next week with additional details.

Andrew Moneymaker updated the council on the following campus events

- Jones Hall Furniture: September 21, vendors will showcase furniture options in Cochran Ballroom from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. for faculty, staff, and student input.
- Campus Safety Day: September 21 at 5 p.m. behind Payton Hall, featuring off-campus groups covering water, weather, fire, electrical, health, and other safety topics.

Elise Wilson encouraged all departments and offices to work toward 100% participation for the Faculty/Staff Giving Campaign.

- Incentive: Departments with 100% participation will receive Crumbl Cookies;
- Donations of $50 or more qualify for a W blanket and gift-card drawings.

Overall MUW faculty and staff continue to have strong participation rates in the campaign.

Jessi Jobe updated the council on The Golden Triangle Regional Fair is September 17. Preview Day for the fall is November 13th and 14th, so that'll be similar to what we've done in the past.

Anika Perkins gave the following updates:

- College Rankings celebration luncheon is tentatively scheduled for October 7, with more details to come for all faculty and staff.
- Webmaster: Andrew Sanders is the university webmaster and should be the point of contact for website-related needs.

Policy

Dr. Whitehead presented PS3533 Teacher Education Council to be entered into the 60-Day Review process.

Following a motion from Dr. Marty Hatton and a second by Andrew Moneymaker, Policy 3533 was approved.

Dr. Whitehead called for last updates.

Kristi DiClemente gave an update on Constitution Day: September 17 around lunchtime at the library, with voter registration, games, and prizes for students.

America 250 Celebration: Campus activities will recognize the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Dr. Whitehead entertained a motion to adjourn.

It was so moved by Dr. Marty Brock and seconded by Penny Mansell to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned.