10/2/2026 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

Participated: Scott Tollison, Brian Anderson, Brandie Branch, Aaron Brooks, Melissa Buxton, Trish Caston, Jianwen Crump, Kim Davis, Jill Drouillard, Kristi DiClemente, Asia, Duren, Rodney Godfrey, Buddy Foster, Glen Halbert, Zander Hall, Jessica Harpole, Marty Hatton, Erinn Holloway, Jessi Jobe, Jody Kennedy, Brandy Larmon, Dee Larson, Chandler Lester, Shannon Lucius, Penny Mansell, Matthew Miles, Clear Moore, Jennifer Moore, Nicole Patrick, Anika Perkins, Laura Quinn, Hillary Richardson, Malia Schimminger Melissa Smith, Susan Sobley, Randy Vibrock, Kim Whitehead, Elise Wilson, Kelly Woodford,

Provost Whitehead called the meeting to order.

Minutes -
Following a motion from Kelly Woodford and second by Clear Moore, the September 2026 meeting minutes were approved.

University Updates-

Dr. Whitehead

- Reported that the MSMS partnership with MUW was positively highlighted during the specialty schools hearing.
- Announced receipt of a Title III Strengthening Institutional Programs Grant:
    - $1.3 million over five years.
    - Supports student success in gateway courses, career readiness, internship tracking, labor market analytics, alumni surveys, and stackable micro-credentials.

Dr. Tollison gave the following updates to the council members.

- He is attending a Joint Legislative Budget Committee hearing regarding the IHL budget and proposed performance funding model.
- Dr. Tollison explained the model may include:
    - 7 core metrics
    - 2 administrative efficiency metrics
    - 4 comprehensive-institution metrics
    - Points awarded for excellence and improvement.
- Dr. Tollison attended a House Select Committee on Specialty Schools meeting.
- Reported that MSMS requested student funding follow students from home districts, estimated at $1.6 million annually.
- Noted that MSMS Executive Director Ginger Tedder repeatedly praised MUW's support and partnership dating back to 1987.
- Encouraged attendance at the Faculty/Staff Appreciation Lunch. October 7th celebrating Washington Monthly rankings. MUW as the highest-ranked public or private university in Mississippi.
- Praised the success of the Women's Leadership Symposium and the launch of the Enrollment Management Council.

Faculty Senate-

Dr. Crump reported that there are no major updates from the Faculty Senate at this time.

- Dr. Crump is attending the State Conference for Faculty Senators in Hattiesburg and will provide a report at the next meeting following the conference regarding the current status of faculty senates throughout the State of Mississippi.
- Faculty Senate will discuss the SACS recommendations and seek clarification through questions before the final vote.

Staff Council-

Jordan Barlow gave the following updates from Staff Council:

- No major Staff Council updates.
- Encouraged employees to bring questions to Staff Council.
- Announced the Annual Costume Contest on October 30, 2026.

SGA-

Zander Hall gave the following updates from the SGA:

- Continuing work on the closet initiative, including naming and location selection.
- Planning updates to The Nest, including possible repainting.
- Preparing a student survey regarding the wellness fee.
- Announced the upcoming Nest Night Cookout on next Wednesday, October 7, 2026.

Other Updates-

Hillary Richardson gave the following updates:

- Announced Banned Books Week events at the library.
- Hosting a screening of an Emmy Award-winning documentary.
- Suzette Baker will participate in a Q&A session
- Promoted banned-books-themed trivia at Munson and Brothers.

Jess Harpole shared information about the upcoming annual golf outing.

- Highlighted Athletics' 10-year celebration.
- Recognized Hispanic Heritage Month activities.
- Reported monitoring of HB 1193.
- Noted that October is Careers and Student Affairs Month.

Asia Duren updated the council on Oktoberfest. The event will take place tonight from 5:00–8:00 p.m. in Pohl Gymnasium due to the earlier weather forecast. Approximately 22 student organizations will participate, using the event as a fundraiser. Admission is free, with activity tickets costing approximately $0.50 each. Faculty, staff, students, and families are encouraged to attend and support the student organizations.

Elise Wilson informed the council that sponsorship opportunities for the Welty Gala will remain available through October 15. This year’s featured speaker is Elizabeth Smart.

Anyone interested in attending or supporting the event is encouraged to contact the Office of Alumni & Development with questions or for additional information.

Policy

Dr. Kim Whitehead informed members of three policies submitted for entry into the 60-day review process.

The following policies were presented for review:

1. PS 3543 – Graduate Student Scholastic Appeals Committee
2. PS 3907 – Solicitation and Handling of External Funds
3. PS 7401 – Records Retention

A motion was made by Hillary Richardson to accept all three policies into the 60-day review process as a single motion. The motion was seconded by Clear Moore

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Clear Moore and seconded by Kelly Woodford. The motion was approved by a show of hands, and the meeting was adjourned.