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Council of Chairs

University Committees & Organizations

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USM Council of Chairs

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Council of Chairs

August 12, 2010

Minutes

Attendance: A. Branton, C. Campbell, D. Duhon, S. Hughes, T. O'Brien, J. Norton, B. Powell, T. Rehner, K. Reidenbach, J. Zhang

- 1.0 Call to Order: 12:15 PM
- 2.0 Approval of agenda: Approved.
- 3.0 Guest: Dr. Robert Lyman, Provost

UPC Report: No specifics about the UPC and their report. Report was submitted grouped by four tiers to indicate review for cuts; 60% of all programs were exempt from cuts. A major problem encountered in tracking cost savings making it difficult to show exactly how savings would be executed without more information. Reports have been distributed to the vice presidents that will meet next week to review and discuss. Administration is looking for a 50/50 division in budget cuts between academic and non-academic units in the university or as close as they can get. During August 20th and 24th meetings they will try to complete the process and move toward final decisions. At this time they would like to see more aggressive cuts from the non-academic side. Need to assess impact on students and impact on faculty and may need to cut whole programs and initiatives. Trimming programs may only delay programs being cut later. Furloughs may yet be considered across the board but this is not a desirable option. All faculty members in line to be cut will receive a terminal contract September 1. The final 2010/2011 APG cuts were 7M for academic and 4M non-academic. Unlikely that the UPC report will be released on August 17th due to review by vice presidents the following week. Prefer to release the final Cabinet report along with UPC report to be able to compare documents to have transparency in the process. 116 degree programs are listed with cost savings.

Provost Retreat: Set for September 24th primarily to discuss RCM and implementation of a 'poor man's' version of the model. Currently we do not have the staff infrastructure to support beyond the college level. RCM taskforce will give a presentation of proposed RCM model and outlined. Takes about five years to fully set up RCM and there is concern about this

timeline. Another issue is the difficulty in assessing quality of a program or service. Question: Is differential tuition part of the equation? Answer: IHL has not addressed this yet but will likely in the near future. To date, USM has very few course fees which directly impact the students taking that course. Various formulas can be used to differentiate courses. Also, a program can be rewarded through enrollment, graduation stats or other measures.

Summer School: Numbers to evaluate summer sessions for 2010 are available. Surplus will determine percentage of overhead computed to see what remains. Balancing budgets with some revenue sharing 50/50 with the colleges. Pay per credit hour model used in the summer.

MIDAS. Dr. Denis Wiesenburg, VP for Research, updated guidelines for Model for Incentive Dollars for Augmenting Salaries (MIDAS):

Modifications to the MIDAS Program:

The Model for Incentive Dollars for Augmenting Salaries (MIDAS) program was established in April 2003 by the University of Southern Mississippi to provide incentives to faculty in a time of declining funding for higher education in Mississippi. An assessment of the MIDAS program for fiscal years 2006 to 2010 shows that the MIDAS program has not enabled the university to accomplish several of the goals for which it was established. To reduce the cost of the program and to better focus faculty efforts on competitive funding, the following modification to the MIDAS program were proposed and approved by Executive Cabinet on August 2, 2010.

- The MIDAS program will be limited to tenured and tenure track faculty.
- Salary support for MIDAS consideration must be derived from competitively funded extramural grants or contracts. Funds from direct federal appropriations or Congressionally directed funds will not apply.
- The maximum MIDAS award will be limited to \$15,000 per fiscal year.
- All grants and contracts on which the MIDAS award recipient is paid or is responsible for must be in good standing with respect to compliance, budget and reporting as determined by the Vice President for Research.

Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast campuses: Concern expressed about duplication of efforts between the campuses. Noted that chair involvement varies. Concern has been that the Coast interests will not be met if departmental budgets are combined. Suggestion that chairs could be held accountable for budgets and the shares between campuses monitored. Response: Highly unlikely current situation will change but there does need to be a shift in vision and a need for junior/senior level programs.

4.0 Approval of minutes: Two corrections made; moved to approve, S. Hughes.

5.0 Committee reports from CoC representatives

5.1 Provost Council—Chris Campbell reporting:

5.1.1 College Hall will close for renovations summer of 2011 which will impact 129 sections of undergraduate courses.

5.1.2 Mississippi Virtual Community College “(MSVCC) is a consortium of 14 of Mississippi's community colleges that makes it possible for MSVCC colleges to leverage their distance learning resources -- including faculty, courses, support services, and technology. Through MSVCC, students may take courses from community colleges anywhere in Mississippi while getting support services from a local college. To take a course from a *remote* (provider) college, a student enrolls at a *local* (host) community college. The host college supports the student with a full slate of student services, including advisement and counseling, financial aid, and learning resources. The host college awards credit for the course. The *remote* (provider) college provides the course instruction.” Only three USM programs are affected in the pilot program. See <http://www.msvcc.org/msvcc/AboutUs.htm>

5.1.3 Academic Probation: Students on academic probation that meet all contract requirements do not need to return to the academic chair to discuss their status. The student will be able to register in SOAR.

5.1.4 Title III \$1,954,000 grant was awarded to Learning Enhancement Center (LEC) to support a student think center. “In October 2009, LEC received a five year grant award from the U.S. Department of Education. This project, funded under the Title III Part A Strengthening Institutions Program, creates a Student Think Center to enrich the student experience and encourage student engagement to learning. The Think Center works with undergraduate student to help them understand their individual cognitive processes and to facilitate exploration of potential learning solutions. Faculty who are interested in evaluating solution-oriented teaching strategies have opportunities to develop new approaches. Two learning spaces are available as prototypes for Think Center members to experiment with flexible, collaborative learning environments. Visit <http://www.usm.edu/thinkcenter> to learn more. LEC was actually established as part of a previous Title III-A grant from the U.S. Department of Education that ran from October 2001 through September 2006.”

- 5.1.5 Provost will meet with Council of Chairs each month for 30 minutes for consistent contact with departmental chairs.
- 5.2 RCM Budget Committee—S. Hughes reporting: The RCM committee last met in March 2010. Since then the committee has been reduced to a smaller size committee to be able to get something going but apparently CoC is not represented; C. Campbell will look into this.
- 5.3 UPC—Tim Rehner & Bill Powell. No report to add to Provost's comments. Faculty on the UPC represented the university interests under very difficult circumstances. There will still be a need to teach-out remaining junior and senior classes until some programs can be fully discontinued.
- 5.4 Chair Development Committee—Lisa Nored & Kathy Yadrick. Comment: Chair orientation went very well.
- 5.5 Faculty Handbook Committee—Bob Bateman. Proposal under discussion at the June meeting regarding FH Option 1 addressing the evaluation of the department chair by departmental faculty was supported by the Faculty Handbook committee by a vote of 7 to 2; it goes to the president for final approval.
- 5.6 Strategic Enrollment & Planning Council—Chris Campbell. No report.
- 5.7 Space Utilization and Allocation Review Committee—Kathy Yadrick & Lisa Nored.
Comments: Centralization of assigning space may infringe on decisions made by chairs.
- 6.0 Old Business
 - 6.1 Meeting days and time for AY 2010-2011—Tim Rehner.
Comments: Stressed importance of providing all chairs once a month opportunity to voice concerns with policy making.
- 7.0 New Business
 - 7.1 Bylaw review for Committee on Committees. Will review CoC Bylaws at the September 2 meeting and inform Committee of Committees.
 - 7.3 Membership for 2010-11. D. Davies (CoB) has retired; Tom O'Brien replaces Ed Mann (CoEP); T. Rehner (CoH) and L. Nored (CoST) terms expired. All colleges will need to elect new representatives.
 - 7.2 Access to IR data – Bob Bateman. Discussion moved to September meeting.
- 8.0 Announcements/Reminders
 - 8.1 Next meeting: Sept. 2, 2010

8.2 K. Reidenbach announced that orders for computers for new faculty have been expanded. There are 32 new faculty, 11 of which are tenure track.

9.0 Adjourned at 2:15PM.