

The University of Southern Mississippi
The Aquila Digital Community

Council of Chairs

University Committees & Organizations

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June 2011 Minutes

USM Council of Chairs

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Council of Chairs

June 2, 2011

12:15 PM

115 Southern Hall

Minutes

Attendance: B. Bateman, A. Branton, C. Campbell, C. Dixon, D. Duhon, M. Wittmann (Flynn), K. E. Hughes, M. Miles, J. Norton, T. O'Brien, K. Yadrick

1.0 Call to Order: 12:16PM

2.0 Approval of agenda: Approved

3.0 Dr. Kim LeDuff, University Diversity Initiative

Dr. LeDuff is working with the Office of the Provost and the Affirmative Action office to develop a plan to increase faculty diversity at USM. She will be speaking with faculty, chairs, and administrators about the current status and seeking input about possible initiatives and incentives to help increase diversity. She is charged with developing a 3-year plan for the university.

4.0 Dr. Frances Lucas, Vice President and Campus Executive Officer, Gulf Coast

Dr. Lucas, VP for the Gulf Coast Campus began her presentation with an overview of GC enrollment statistics and demographics. GC campus serves a very different student body, often married with children, working full-time and attending classes in the evening. There were a few surprises: There are very few freshman and sophomores; average age has decreased to the more traditional college age student of less than 30 years of age but who do not live traditional lives; 64% are full-time students and may work full-time; 65% are transfer students. Dr. Lucas distributed several documents illustrating these points. [see attached pdf documents] A number of issues of particular concern to academic chairs were discussed in a question/answer session with Dr. Lucas. Discussion points included concerns about the resources needed to support the lower level courses; concerns about recruitment and the loss of the graduate student market share; concerns about faculty teaching loads and class scheduling conflicts by both Hattiesburg or Gulf Coast academic departments, recognizing that this often stresses collegial relationships on both campuses suggesting greater Coast autonomy in scheduling classes may resolve the conflicts; the university tenure and promotion expectations of the Coast faculty in light of distance and working in isolation separate from their respective departmental faculty, and fewer resources, particularly in the lack of research quality science labs; the need to clarify the rather confusing process of securing T&P letters of approval from a department chair, college dean and/or associate dean for the Coast campus. Communication with Coast faculty is the most significant and immediate issue, followed by the need to remove obstacles in the enrollment process for students on the Coast campus. Dr. Lucas

emphasized that by working together more collaboratively we would be able to resolve these concerns.

- 5.0 Approval of minutes. Approved.
- 6.0 Committee reports from CoC representatives
 - 6.1 Provost Council—Chris Campbell reporting. No report.
 - 6.2 Chair Development Committee—Kathy Yadrick reporting. The Provost office will likely organize the New Chair Orientation later this summer as we draw closer to the start of the new academic year.
 - 6.3 Faculty Handbook Committee—Michael Miles reporting. No report.
 - 6.4 Space Utilization and Allocation Review Committee—Kathy Yadrick reporting. No report.
- 7.0 Old Business
 - 7.1 Revised CoC bylaws for Committee on Committees. Tabled until the September meeting.
 - 7.2 University assessment process. Tabled until the September meeting.
 - 7.3 Elections: Chair-elect, secretary.
A. Branton was invited to continue as secretary. A co-chair will be elected at the September meeting.
 - 7.4 Reminder: College elections of CoC members
- 8.0 Announcements/Reminders
 - 8.1 Next meeting: September 1, 2011 at 12:15. Place to be announced.
- 9.0 Adjourned at 1:45PM.