

9-15-2014

## September 2014 Special Meeting Minutes

USM Council of Chairs

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### Recommended Citation

USM Council of Chairs, "September 2014 Special Meeting Minutes" (2014). *Council of Chairs*. Paper 43.  
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Council of Chairs  
Special Planning Meeting  
September 15, 2014  
Cook Library Room 123

Attending: Bonnie Harbaugh, Susan Hart, Liz Haynes, Sabine Heinhorst, Wayne Kelly, Ann Marie Kinnell, Tom O'Brien, Gwen Pate, Stacy Reischman Fletcher, Bill Smith, Eric Tribunella, Jeff Wiggins, Tisha Zelner

Not Attending: Steve Cloud, Monty Graham, Ray Newman, Tim Rehner, Thelma Roberson

### **Guest Speakers**

#### ***Dr. Bennett, University President***

1.update from summer

- second highest single year in fundraising with \$15,560,117 for fiscal year 2014
- looking ahead to comprehensive campaign to increase endowment, working with Marts & Lundy fundraising consultants
- Ray Guy inducted to Pro Football Hall of Fame
- hosted Marine Technologies Economic Forum on the Gulf Coast campus in June 2014, to collaborate with business and industry partners
- entered concurrent enrollment agreement with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) for 7 majors on Gulf Coast Campus
- College of Nursing received grant to offer accelerated program for veterans to earn B.S. degree in nursing at the Gulf Coast Campus
- four new deans: David Hayhurst, College of Science and Technology; Karen Coats, Graduate School; John Eye, Libraries; Ellen Weinauer, Honors College
- three new members on Executive Cabinet: Bob Press, Faculty Senate, April Jordan, Staff Council, and Jeffrey George, Student Government Association (SGA)
- Strategic Planning Council met with deans of the degree-granting colleges
- construction updates, Hattiesburg Campus: 2 of 3 buildings in Century Park South opened, third will open in January 2015; Scianna Hall (College of Business) scheduled to open in May 2015; groundbreaking for Asbury Hall (College of Nursing) on Sept. 17, 2014, to be completed summer 2016
- construction updates, Gulf Park Campus: renovations of three buildings on Gulf Park campus to be completed this semester (fitness center, health and wellness facility, and school of social work); two gravel lots [will be/have been?] paved

2.six goals for 2014-2015

- ensure student success
- expand enrollment strategies
- enhance academic instruction
- foster research
- bolster economic development and community partnerships
- maximize human potential

3.other comments

- enrolled most academically talented class in USM history
- will use one-time monies to fund faculty support and development initiatives; possibly allocating some end-of-year money to go back to department
- enrollment targets did not produce numbers we need to do the kinds of things we want to do financially
- approximately 400 fewer students represents approx. \$2.2 million in lost tuition revenue, so we will have hard decisions to make going forward
- does recognize and appreciate hard work of faculty; USM could not be successful without faculty

***Dr. Wiesenburg, Provost***

1. enhance faculty development activities through Teaching Forum,
2. Create task force for improvement of student advisement,
3. Hire Associate Provost for Academic Excellence - to coordinate faculty development and manage student success initiatives
4. funds to support “long-serving faculty for scholarly activities”
2. improve communication with chairs and faculty by holding more meeting with chairs, conduct all-faculty meetings, increase frequency of Provost’s newsletter, and hold open office hours
3. improve classroom and laboratory facilities by establishing Classroom Design Advisory Committee, creating a protocol for ensuring classroom readiness, establishing a process for updating teaching labs
4. modify current enrollment management strategies
5. hire Associate Provost for Gulf Coast, ensure that Coast resources are allocated properly, and determine why some programs are only on the Coast
6. “do what the deans and chairs tell me we need to do”

***Dr. Vinzant, Vice President for Finance and Administration***

- supports agenda of President and Provost
- how we align resource allocation with the need to effectively manage enrollment is critical
- have to consider market opportunities,
- need to get better at aligning “what we do” [ET: academics?] with financial aid
- we want both more students and better students, will have to go outside of Mississippi for some
- to go outside Mississippi we need a brand
- better integrate what we do with finance and administration across sites
- greater efficiency needed in academic and administrative areas; we’re working on this, might not be visible to wider university community
- you don’t change the way an institution functions quickly, will be a long-term process
- challenges ahead: \$2.2 million shortfall; will put together a process to reduce spending; the earlier in the year we address the shortfall the better

***Q&A info***

- 2100 students eligible to return who did not return
- freshman retention was 74%, increase from 71% previous year
- most frequently reported reasons for students not returning are: financial, personal, and job-related

- 6-year graduation rate increased from 45.1% to 48.3%; 5-year graduation rate 45.1%, highest in 10 years
- Vinzant: as economy improves and more jobs available, some students will choose to work rather than attend school
- we enroll the highest number of transfer students of any IHL institution
- 60% of students who finish at MGCCC come to USM
- JCJC has 4700 students, 50% go on to earn 4-year degree, over 90% completing 4-year degrees; MS State has built a pipeline (Wiesenburg: might be for programs we don't have)
- could we make non-degree students in certificate programs eligible for financial aid?
- USM has largest share of Mississippi community college transfer students
- question/suggestion: have we compared the graduate rates of transfer students to students who only attend USM? Is there an advantage to starting here?
- 60-65% of our graduates are transfer students
- we could have additional expenses (e.g., investments in technology for recruitment) that will increase budget shortfall; might need to use vacancy review plus additional cuts to make up shortfall
- strategic management still working on the brand issue; discussion ongoing
- dual enrollment with high schools is a possibility

### **New Business**

- Reischman Fletcher moved, Heinhorst seconded approval of minutes; approved by acclamation
- CoC meeting schedule: consensus for Friday, 12pm-2pm; Sep. 26, Oct. 31, Nov. 14, Dec. 15 in LIB 123
- need 2/3 for binding vote to amend Constitution, 12 members; 13 present
- discussed changes to Constitution; O'Brien moved to accept changes as group, Heinhorst seconded; approved by acclamation, any minor typos to be corrected
- priorities for the year:
  - 1) develop chair training, a chair handbook, calendar of recurring tasks, mentoring program = brainstorm as whole group then convene task force
  - 2) play role in \$2.2 million cuts
  - 3) advocate for faculty development funds to come back to departments for department-level distribution; ask deans about carryover money