

Deans' Cabinet Meeting

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

9:00 AM

Library 475

Attending: Michael Allen, Brad Bartel, Mike Boyle, Jim Burton, Mark Byrnes, Tom Cheatham, Becky Cole, Jackie Eller, Watson Harris, Faye Johnson, Roy Moore, Kim Neal Nofsinger, John Omachonu, Philip Phillips, Jenny Sauls, Lana Seivers, Terry Whiteside, Laurie Witherow

I. Budget

Governor's Budget announced 1/30/12. Highlights: Higher Education will have to make a reduction of 2% overall. We had warnings that it might be 5%. There is recurring money (new money) to recognize new Performance Funding (\$15M). Also 2.5% pay increase, but each University has to pay part of this, but we will be up \$24,000 (a wash). Other items of interest – Science Building We have to come up with \$18,750,000. President's strategy is combining donors, city, and county money with student fees. Since we have no structural changes, we can break ground very soon. Increase of \$200K for Centers of Excellence, so the question is how does this increase translate to our two centers?

Biggest problem in budget is TCCW contract – zeroed out. We need clarification from DCS and Gov's office. Then talk to our state legislative delegation. If terminated, it will cost MTSU in unemployment and accrued vacation, as well as loss in research services.

Enrollment for Fall looks like it will be flat again, so we will be looking at reallocation.

Academic Affairs put \$1.5 M into colleges for additional instruction, but enrollment Fall 2011 was flat. So we'll quickly determine fall back position relative to FTTs and adjuncts. Please warn your departments to mirror enrollment.

II. Advising Registration Issues for Students

President wants to be assured students are getting efficient service with regards to advising. *Attachment* describes current plan and what Teresa Thomas needs to program in Banner for holds for advising prior to registration. Every college plan and major is different. Will the students understand where they need to go to get service? Should students with prescribed courses be able to declare a major? Departments want the majors, so they won't lose staffing. We have to be reasonable about this. Departments shouldn't worry about this. The key element now is that students aren't confused.

What's the difference in the 40% of freshman who come in with prescribed courses and the other freshman? The ones without prescribed courses can register for classes in their major. There are issues with forcing students with prescribed courses to remain undeclared – scholarships, Academic Common Market, etc.

If they think they want to be a Business major, then JCOB wants to have contact with the students. Dean Burton will discuss within the college to allow students with prescribed courses to be advised by UCAC. But the college advisors will never turn away a student that needs to be advised.

UCAC is here to help, and the Director is evaluated on how quickly they can get students to convert to a major. It's inevitable that there will be emails to the President re: bad

advising, even if it's not true. We don't want any student to be without an advisor. But they declare a major in the junior year and are assigned a faculty advisor. Many times multiple advisors, but wouldn't this confuse the student about where to go? To summarize, all students with prescribed courses or undeclared will have an advising hold and be advised by UCAC.

Issues with time management in having so many advisees. Summer and Fall schedules are not finalized for advising (no rooms assigned).

Things will change, students will change major and be assigned the wrong advisor to see and release hold. Also issue of CUSTOMS in August, no faculty on campus to advise students. President feels faculty should advise. College advisors can handle, but as soon as there's a problem, President will demand changes. We need to try harder to get current students registered early, so that CUSTOMS students don't have to wait.

When was the last time we had consultants on campus to help with advising? At least 6 years ago? Surely other universities have been through this. We will use various forms of communication to let freshman know of required advising. This will be a surprise. The University Advising Committee meets monthly and will provide feedback and how things are going.

III. **SACS Update – Faye Johnson**

Substantive Review visit February 23-24. We have met with groups that are involved and will be fine. March 26 – Fifth year report due. New rules Jan 1, 2012, so we are scrambling to be in compliance with new items. 11-12 IEARs will go into TK20. Old IEAR system will be migrated into TK20.

IV. **Announcements**

3 finalists for CBAS Dean. Deans' lunches: Feb 13, Feb 20, and Feb 27

Omachonu: Need support of deans to assure Academic Advisors that their jobs are safe.

Also communicate information to Academic Advisors what is discussed in deans' meetings, so they are in the loop.

Byrnes: February 8 – Sandra Day O'Connor, Hinton Hall. Also February 8-10, Actors from London Stage in Tucker Theatre.

Chairs Council: President wants to chart junior year retention. We'll have Fay Parham describe how she calculates persistence by major. President wants to reward departments for innovation in retention.

Honors: Record number of Honors Theses – 43 this Spring. Also "Prison Writing" Honors Lecture Series

Moore: Leonard Pitts, February 15, State Farm Room 2:20. Sebastian Junger – March 20.

Allen: Doctoral Candidates - we'll have 23 for this year

Seivers: Ed.D. proposal went to THEC, questions answered, back to THEC. Next step bring THEC to campus.

Cheatham: National Block and Bridle; Math and Science Researchers from across the state; TLSAMP – undergraduate minorities