

## **4/5/24 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Dr. Brian Anderson, Russell Brandon, Dr. Marty Brock, Aaron Brooks, Melissa Buxton, Karen Clay, Asia Duren, Buddy Foster, Wesley Garrett, Rodney Godfrey, Dr. Marty Hatton, Jody Kennedy, Dr. Holly Krogh, Dr. Brandy Larmon, Carla Lowery, Shannon Lucius, Penny Mansell, Tequila McCoy, President Nora Miller, Dr. Clear Moore, Jennifer Moore, Andrew Moneymaker, Nicole Patrick, Anika Perkins, Amanda Clay Powers, Laura Quinn, Susan Sobley, Dr. Scott Tollison, Randy Vibrock, Dr. Kim Whitehead and Elise Wilson

President Nora Miller called the meeting to order.

### **Minutes** -

Following a motion from Dr. Clear Moore and a second by Carla Lowery, the March 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

### **University Update** –

President Miller noted the university is looking forward to hosting Homecoming this weekend. She encouraged the Administrative Council members to participate in as many of the events as they are able to attend.

She said faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends have asked, “What is the current state of the University?” Her response is all is well. While there is no current legislation looming that could negatively affect The W, now is not the time to become complacent. Last month, W alumni united in a powerful way to remind state legislators of the unique value The W contributes to the state and our students. The university had data to show how we excel in metrics from affordability to degree completion, social mobility, and economic impact. Even though the university has navigated most of the legislative session, there is still more that can be done to spread the good news about The W and what makes the university a great investment for current and prospective students and the state of Mississippi.

Legislatively, President Miller said the bills to move MSMS to MSU, to merge the university with MSU, and to form a politically appointed taskforce to study the efficiency of the eight universities in the IHL system have died. The appropriations bills will not be settled until the end of the session. She said the expectation is funding will be flat, but she hopes it will at least include funding for the increased employer share of PERS and health insurance.

She asked the Administrative Council members to continue to follow and share information posted on the university’s social media channels. She also thanked them for their support and encouragement, contacts with legislators, letters to the editor and helping to dispel misinformation. She also expressed her gratitude for the support of the local media and the resolutions of support from the City of Columbus and the Lowndes County Board of Supervisors.

President Miller said updating the university's name is still an important piece of the picture for The W's future. The university will continue to listen to all constituents. In light of this legislative session, it is clear the university must now focus attention and resources on prioritizing how we tell our story and on identifying new ways to connect with potential students, including through the newly announced alumni recruitment initiative. She said the name will have to wait.

She said the university remains committed to recruiting and retaining students and providing them with the best education possible in a highly personalized environment that prepares them for their future endeavors. She also noted we are energized by the focus of the QEP, "Empowering Your Journey".

President Miller reported Dr. David Brooking attended the college fair Birmingham Southern put on for their students. Later this month, he and Buddy Foster will attend a similar fair at Fontbonne University. Both of these universities will be closing in the near future.

President Miller recognized Asia Duren, Director of Student Life, who attended her first Administrative Council meeting.

Karen Clay added to President Miller's legislative update by reporting the university is watching SB 2408 that would require IDs to include the suicide hotline information. This would be only for new or replacement IDs.

**Faculty Senate Update** –

Dr. Holly Krogh said Faculty Senate will elect new officers during its meeting on April 12. She also reported \$5,600 of the \$8,000 budgeted for Fund A has been awarded while \$1,825 of the \$3,000 has been awarded from Fund B.

**Staff Council Update** –

Tequila McCoy noted the Administrative Assistant Network has been reactivated. There was a listening session with this group on March 19 and a procurement and purchasing training session is set for April 16. Also, Administrative Professionals Day will be celebrated with a brunch on April 24. The first Owl Star of the year will be announced soon, and she will send an email requesting nominations for new Staff Council members.

**SGA Update** –

No report.

**Policies** –

Following a motion by Andrew Moneymaker and a second by Dr. Marty Hatton, the Administrative Council voted to accept PS 3540 (General Education Curriculum Council) and PS 3508 (Undergraduate Curriculum Council) into the review process.

Following a motion by Dr. Brian Anderson and a second by Dr. Marty Brock, the Administrative Council voted to accept New Policy (Women's College Advisory Committee) into the review process.

Following a motion by Carla Lowery and a second by Aaron Brooks, the Administrative Council voted to accept PS 3515 (Academic Council) into the review process.