

9/6/24 Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Dr. Brian Anderson, Dr. Marty Brock, Dr. David Brooking, Melissa Buxton, Trish Caston, Dr. Josh Dohmen, Dr. Hope Durst, Rodney Godfrey, Glen Halbert, Erin Holloway, Jessi Jobe, Dr. Brandy Larmon, Chandler Lester, Carla Lowery, Shannon Lucius, Penny Mansell, Tequila McCoy, Matthew Miles, Nora Miller, Dr. Clear Moore, Jennifer Moore, Andrew Moneymaker, Dr. Chad Murphy, Nicole Patrick, Anika Perkins, Dr. Irene Pintado, Laura Quinn, Ginger Smith, Susan Sobley, Dr. Scott Tollison, Randy Vibrock, Dr. Kim Whitehead, Elise Wilson and Kelly Woodford

President Nora Miller called the meeting to order.

Minutes -

Following a motion from Dr. David Brooking and a second by Anika Perkins, the June 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

University Update –

President Miller reported about 115 people attended the first LEAP event in Columbus, and there was good engagement at the LEAP events in Olive Branch and Oxford yesterday. There are seven more LEAP events scheduled. She is excited about this year and the engagement with alumni and the community. A goal of the LEAP events is to assign an alumni or friend of the university to each state legislator. These volunteers will have a script when needed to encourage legislators to vote for or against bills according to the interests of the university. She has heard Senator John Polk may be considering introducing a similar bill in the 2025 legislative session like he did in 2024 that would close or merge three IHL institutions. She believes The W is in good shape, and we need to continue to tell the story of why The W is important to this community and the state. She and others had a meeting with Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann this summer, and alumna and lobbyist Linda Ross Aldy along with Karen Clay are meeting with legislators in the Oxford area today following last night's LEAP event. President Miller mentioned Mississippi State Auditor Shad White has raised concerns about the IHL institutions' spending on DEI initiatives. While some of the institutions have changed the name of their DEI offices, The W doesn't have a DEI office. President Miller said the university will need to change the name of the committee, but she would like for the work to continue.

President Miller noted the first two meetings of the Women's College have been held, and there are 18 students enrolled.

Although the university is not able to report enrollment numbers until the census date on November 1, President Miller said it looks like the university's fall enrollment will be flat compared to Fall 2023. She did note that there is a 13% increase in first time freshmen compared to this time last year. She called on Dr. David Brooking to talk about some of the initiatives Admissions is doing. Dr. Brooking reported Admissions has hosted

counselor lunches throughout the state during the last two weeks. There were about 25 counselors at yesterday's lunch on the Coast, and there is a lunch in the Delta today. They also will host dinners with prospective students. He said mailers are being sent at all levels of the funnel in addition to emails and messages through Slate. Dr. Brooking encouraged anyone hosting an event with prospective students to enter the information in Slate. There will be a drop-in training for Slate on September 9.

President Miller said the IHL Board will have its yearly retreat later this month, and she will attend the inauguration for Jackson State University's new president Dr. Marcus Thompson. She mentioned JSU's Faculty Senate president Dawn McLin has been put on leave pending termination for allegedly abusing the power of the position. A letter is circulating for the other university Faculty Senate groups to sign in support of Dr. McLin.

Faculty Senate Update –

Dr. Chad Murphy said The W's Faculty Senate did not vote to be included in the letter of support for Dr. McLin because they feel they do not understand the full story. He also mentioned the next Faculty Senate meeting is set for September 13, and a committee will be formed to review Fund A and Fund B requests.

Staff Council Update –

Tequila McCoy said nominations for the next Owl Star of the quarter are due September 23, and she mentioned six staff members were awarded textbook scholarships for the fall semester.

SGA Update –

No report.