

Council of Department Heads  
Minutes for January 25, 2011

Members Present:

Bob Bauer (Psychology and Counseling), Jesse Spencer for Jim Baxter (Chemistry), Fred Downing (Philosophy and Religion), Ed Chatelain, (Astronomy, Physics, Geosciences), Mike Griffin (Kinesiology and Phys. Ed.), Don Leech (Curriculum, Leadership and Technology), Ashok Kumar (Mathematics and Computer Science), Reynaldo Martinez, Jr. (Adult and Career Education), C Myer-Jennings (Communication Speech Disorders), A. Blake Pearce (Art), Jim Peterson (Political Science), Paul Riggs (History), Darrell Ross (SOCANTHCJMFT), James Schrader (Music), Mark Smith (English), Viki Soady (MCL), Barbara Stanley (Middle, Secondary, Reading and Deaf Education), Phyllis Holland (Management) Wallace Koehler (MLIS) and Len Weld (Accounting and Finance).

Associate Attendees Tracy Woodard- Myers (Women's and Gender Studies), Ofelia Nikolova (Honors Program), Chere Peguesse (Student Success Center/OASIS)

Guests: Dr. Patrick Schloss, Dr. Phil Gunter, Honey Coppage, Dr. Sheri Gravett, Dr. James LaPlant, and Dr. Kristina Cragg.

I. Council Chair Martinez called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and welcomed the guests listed above.

II. The minutes of the meeting of November 17, 2010 were approved with two small changes: 1) add the word "Fall" before classes in item one; and 2) replace "Office of Equal Opportunity Programs/Multicultural Affairs" with "Office of Social Equity" in the last bullet of "Committee Reports"

III. Provost Phil Gunter Addressed the group:

- Jennett Hall dedication is scheduled for Monday, January 31, 2011 at 10 a.m.
- The Regents Exemption plan has been approved by the BOR for immediate implementation. Procedures for students requiring testing this semester will be announced soon.
- Funds for promotions will remain at the same rates as last year: Professor: \$5000.00; Associate Professor: \$4000.00; Assistant Professor: \$3000.00.
- The budget Committee is addressing the issue that the DHC raised concerning increasing Operating Funds when additional faculty lines are filled in departments.

- On a question from Dr. Ed Chatelain, the issue of a summer teaching formula will be referred to Dean's Council.
- On a question From Dr. Darrell Ross, Provost Gunter replied that the new Leave with Pay Policy is on the agenda for the next meeting of Senate.

IV. President Schloss then distributed and presented a Power Point slide show entitled "2010-11 and 2011-12 Budget Update."

- He began by requesting that this Power Point and its information be widely disseminated to faculty and discussed in departmental meetings, Executive Committees, etc.
- The governor's latest budget calls for the elimination of 14,000 state positions with a state spending reduction of 4%.
- The impact on higher education is an annualized reduction of 6% for 2010-2011 and an additional 10% for 2011-2012.
- State funding per FTE will be the lowest since 1994.
- Throughout the continuing reductions the President will maintain his "FIVE Guarantees" and academic priorities will remain central.
- Re-engineering the curriculum with large section courses has had an impact of \$20 million to support capital projects and funding pools.
- The budget situation is monitored on a bi-weekly basis and pools are dynamically adjusted to respond to needs and changing financial circumstances.
- Current rules mandate that state employees are barred from raises for this year, so funds are re-directed to create better working conditions through reassigned time, adding graduate assistantships, and additional faculty lines.
- The HOPE scholarship program is under serious discussion at this time, but there are no real conclusions to report.
- On a question from Chere Peguesse, the Dr. Schloss indicated that on-going renovations will produce a "One Stop Student Service Center," in the Converse Hall area of campus.
- Strategic Initiatives will continue to be used for innovative ideas that will eventually pay for themselves.
- As an example, it was announced that 40 students will be fully funded for the new Honors College. This will allow VSU to compete for the best students available.

V. Dr. James LaPlant presented a proposed list of 12 PERS courses that are recommended to be deactivated. Approved on a motion (Pearce/Weld).

VI. Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Sheri Gravett reported that online SOI's are now being used for all evaluations. There was a discussion of how to improve participation rates. With regards to improvements a suggestion was made that the departmental average be generated for each course. She also stated that with the new withdrawal policy, the only recourse after midterm is through the Dean of Students office for a hardship withdrawal. The withdrawal process is being moved more to an online format.

VII. Dr. Bob Bauer reported that the Core Curriculum Committee had a meeting coming up the following Monday to look at assessing the new core.

VIII. Dr. Viki Soady reported that there was no news from the E-Learning Advisory Board.

IX. Dr. Don Leech reported that the Search for a Assistant Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate Scholl is in a planning phase with nothing to announce currently.

X. Dr. James Schrader reported that the New Faculty Orientation Committee is considering orientations to begin a week earlier than the present schedule in order to remove conflict with meetings scheduled by the division, college and department scheduled the week before classes start.

XI. There was no report from the Civility Task Force.

XII. Dr. Paul Riggs reported that the Planning and Budget Committee meeting scheduled for January 21, 2011 had been cancelled and the next meeting was planned for Friday, January 28, 2011.

XIII. Dr. Len Weld announced that the hiring salary strategy for Accounting faculty openings was successful. Three new Accounting faculty members were hired for the coming fall semester.

XII. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Viki Soady.