

# Deans' Council

## Minutes: Tuesday, March 8, 2011

1:00 – 2:30 pm

President's Conference Room

Montana Hall

Martha Potvin

Susan Agre-Kippenhan

Larry Baker

Carl Fox

Robert Hietala

Jeff Jacobsen

Marvin Lansverk

Paula Lutz

Robert Marley

Tom McCoy

Helen Melland

Tamara Miller

Dan Moshavi

Allen Yarnell

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### I. Call to order

Provost Potvin called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

### II. Approval of Minutes of January 31, 2011, Meeting

Minutes unanimously approved as written.

### III. Information/Announcements

Suggested modifications to the dates for submission and review of sabbaticals are being considered by Faculty Senate. A recommendation to move the submission deadline to October 31 (currently November 30) with review and ranking by Faculty Affairs completed prior to the end of fall semester has been positively received by Senate. A formal vote on this proposal is expected prior to the end of the academic year.

### IV. Topics for Discussion:

#### A. International Agreements – Norm Peterson

Vice Provost for International Education, Norm Peterson, reviewed proposed international agreements between MSU and Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University (Nakhon Sawan, Thailand) and Chandrakasem Rajabhat University (Bangkok, Thailand). These two universities have collaborated with MSU for 15 years and are now requesting a document to formalize a mutual agreement to continue this collaboration. The vote was unanimous in favor of recommending to the President that these agreements be approved.

Vice President Yarnell asked if there were policies regarding the development of relationships with countries that have different governance cultures. Dr. Peterson explained that while there were policies regarding safety for students and employees traveling to other countries, there were not policies related to Dr. Yarnell's specific issue.

**B. Name change Motion Picture/Video/Theatre Option to Film Option**

The requested name change has been reviewed and approved by Faculty Senate. Council members voted unanimously in favor of forwarding this request to the Board of Regents for approval.

**C. Course and Program Fees**

The Commissioner's office has provided guidelines for fee requests for the next biennium: no new fees and maximum of 2% increase on existing fees. The Provost has reviewed a long list of fees and has generally approved fees for new courses or new field trips. A number of requests have been rejected. Most educational costs should be covered by department operations budget, not by charging students additional fees. Concern has been expressed in collective bargaining regarding the inadequacy of operating budgets and a suggestion to establish base operating budgets has been positively received by the bargaining team. Fees will be reviewed by the President's Executive Council on March 11. As requested, the fee list as submitted to OCHE will be transmitted to Deans.

**D. University Ombuds**

Provost Potvin reviewed the current structure for the ombuds position. In 2010, 90 contacts were initiated, with the majority made by women. Several Deans voiced support for the work of the ombuds, indicating the ombuds has been useful in serving as a mediator for all categories of employees (classified, professional and faculty). With the creation of the ombuds position, the conciliation process was put on hold. Review of the role of the ombuds at other universities might be useful. Financial resources and any new grievance processes in the new collective bargaining agreement may also be an issue.

**E. Other**

Provost Potvin and Faculty Senate Chair Lansverk provided a brief Legislative update.

The Planning committee is reviewing the university mission statement in coordination with establishing accreditation core themes:

- Teaching and learning
- Discovery and creative activity
- Building community
- Collaboration
- Sustainability
- Outreach

The MSU Foundation will be identifying priorities for a comprehensive campaign based on core themes.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 1:00 – 2:30 pm (President's Conference Room)**