

# Deans' Council Minutes

## Agenda: Tuesday, January 31, 2011

1:30 – 3:00 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 1:30 pm.

### II. Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2011, Meeting

Minutes unanimously approved as written.

### III. Information/Announcements

#### A. Council Membership

Provost Potvin announced that Carl Fox (Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Robert Hietala (Dean of Gallatin College Programs) have been appointed as members of Deans' Council.

### IV. Topics for Discussion:

#### A. Recommendations from Research Council – Tom McCoy

Vice President McCoy distributed the recommendation of Research Council regarding awarding resident tuition rates to non-resident GTAs and GRAs. MSU needs a policy that reflects the recent Board of Regents decision on this issue. The language included in the Research Council recommendation mirrors the language used by the University of Montana:

- Must be enrolled in graduate degree seeking program at a minimum of 6 credits in the semester of the appointment
- Must be appointed for 20 hours per week
- Duties and responsibilities of GTAs and GRAs remain as previously defined

Several concerns were expressed by Council members:

- PhD students typically drop to 3 credits in their final semester(s)
- Is this issue impacted by graduate student unionization efforts?

Next steps:

- Vice President McCoy to confer with Legal Counsel regarding impact of unionization efforts
- Vice President McCoy to follow-up with Graduate Vice Provost regarding impact of dropping back to 3 credits
- Faculty Senate Chair Marvin Lansverk will ask Faculty Senate to review the recommendation

Target implementation date is fall semester 2011. It is anticipated that this new policy will increase graduate students numbers and enhance graduate education. Research Council has made additional recommendations that would provide incentives for faculty to write graduate students (vs. post-doctoral scholars) into grant applications, increasing graduate student enrollment. Create reward system for faculty and departments graduating students in timely manner: MS students in two years and doctorate students in four years. Also reward departments based on rate of growth in graduate programs. MSU's current graduate student population is very low for a land grant university. Stipends vary among colleges and departments. Development of total electronic process for graduate student applications is also a priority.

Additional documents on this topic are available on Research Council website:

[http://www.montana.edu/opa/coms/councils/rcouncil/research\\_council.html](http://www.montana.edu/opa/coms/councils/rcouncil/research_council.html)

## **B. Core Themes**

Identification of Core Themes remains an institutional priority. Planning Council held a workshop on January 28 that started the conversation. The MSU Foundation is pressing for identification of themes by mid-March for campaign purposes.

## **C. Operational Effectiveness and Efficiencies – Terry Leist**

The Business Center pilot project involving Gallatin College Programs, ITC and KSUM was initiated in fall 2010. Terry Leist is a lead participant in the group looking at procedures for gaining efficiencies from vacancies. IT, business and HR activities are being reviewed looking for changes that will reduce errors and streamline processes. The group is working with internal consultants in the Colleges of Business and Engineering. This is meant to be a grass roots, bottom-up process.

## **D. Faculty Senate Compensation**

The established policy for use of funds provided for release time for Faculty Senate Chair and Chair-elect was reviewed. Concern was expressed that the policy has not been followed in recent years and that additional compensation and summer salary are being utilized as compensation mechanisms. Senate Chair Lansverk advocated for maximum flexibility in

utilizing release time funds. It was suggested that a new policy be drafted that accurately reflects allowable compensation options.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 1:00 – 2:30 pm (President's Conference Room)**