

November 5, 2002

## 1.0 Call to Order

President Posey called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

The following members were present: Susan Blackwell, Cheryl Burnette, Kim Busche, Melissa Carpenter, Sally Donovan, Mike Giles, Lin Harper, John Hayman, Kathy Hayman, Keri Hensarling, Mary Ann Iverson, Robin Johnson, Kenton McNeese, Pam Posey, Arlin Steen, Frances Sudduth, Mary Virgil, Trisha Wilbanks, and Sam Williams.

## 2.0 Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as printed.

## 3.0 Call for Proxies

The following members were represented by proxy: Rusty Anderson by Mike Giles, Bradley Bridges by John Hayman, Joan Brashears by Melissa Carpenter, Shannon Davis by John Green, Tommy Dye by Kenton McNeese, Charmine Hill by Mary Virgil, David Kinsey by Frances Sudduth, Larry McMickle by Arlin Steen, Polly Odom by Susan Blackwell, Jan Roberts by Kim Busche, Ray Scott by Sam Williams.

President Posey reminded all Staff Council members that four absences during a year would result in dismissal from the council.

## 4.0 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October regular meeting were approved.

## 5.0 Officer's Reports

### 5.1 President's Report – Pam Posey

Cabinet Meeting, October 14

The University Core Mission statements were distributed for review. Dr. McFall and Dr. Grimes are reviewing the feasibility of a budget officer position in each academic college. The 2 percent mandated

by the Legislature will be implemented across the board beginning January 1, 2003. Dr. Dvorak announced that the research dollars are approximately \$15.9 million ahead of this time last year. Mr. Gianinni announced the football game time has been moved up to 1 p.m. Blake Hamm announced that floats should be ready by noon on Friday and will be judged early Saturday morning. The parade will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning. There will be a "spirit award" for area businesses as well. Blake mentioned that he vetoed a bill proposing the university subscribe to a "Pick-a-Professor Web site"; this Web site would make available grade distribution by professors. M.T. McNabb asked if more assistantships could be made available for graduate students. Graduate students have more responsibilities and their areas of concern include health insurance and parking. A memo regarding sick child daycare system had been proposed. The Provost Office is reviewing this proposal. Dr. Hudson announced that an ad hoc committee has been established to address the complex academic relations between the Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast campuses.

Dr. Cabana announced that Dr. Bob Lochhead would address the Faculty Senate on Friday at 2 p.m. in Union Hall of Honors regarding his Metrics for faculty evaluations. Dr. Cabana also announced that Senator Tom King had spoken with a small delegation of faculty concerning insurance costs for state employees. The Faculty Senate is hosting a brown bag lunch with Governor Musgrove on November 7; all faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to attend. The Faculty Senate has established a new standing Budget Committee. The Faculty wants elected senate representatives of each college to be involved with budget hearings members at each college level. Dr. Jim Williams announced that the Gulf Coast campuses lost 2 \_ days due to storms; makeup day will be November 1. Dr. Grimes announced that the Institutional Research Office has been moved to College Hall with Dr. Susan Siltanen as the new director.

IHL Board Meeting, Columbus, Mississippi, October 17

Mary Ann Iverson and I attended the October IHL Board meeting held at MUW. Mr. Roy Klumb presented the Academic Affairs Agenda. The JSU approval of academic reorganization was postponed until November. Two first readings were presented to amend board policies and bylaws; one dealt with off-campus programs (to eliminate policies and bylaws since the Supreme Court

has ruled unconstitutional) and the other with admission standards regarding those with home schooling and GED for students under 21. Another item was regarding the summer remedial programs and courses. IHL presidents expressed concern over the mandate of the remedial programs but adequate funding was not provided by IHL to universities. (The initial legislation to IHL was \$1.6 million with \$200,000 per IHL.) Mr. Scott Ross presented the Building/Facilities Agenda. USM's request to purchase the 62,000-square-foot Albertson's building to house Nursing and the Pearl Street 5.97 acres was approved at a cost of about \$1 million. USM's request to name the addition of the Dubard School Facility to Kelly Gene Cook Sr. (\$3 million commitment from family) was approved. Mr. Ross stated that concern has been raised over IHL construction contract bidding procedures. The IHL Board is drafting a letter to be sent to the Legislature to allow the Board of Trustees to have more authority on IHL contracts; there have been problems with some construction contracts at IHL campuses. The present procedure is for the Bureau of Buildings to award contracts. The Board wants either the IHL Board to award or the Bureau of Buildings to continue to award but the IHL Board approves.

Dr. Art Cosby made a presentation on a 2002 Survey of Attitudes and Opinions toward Higher Education in Mississippi. The survey concluded that about 79 percent of Mississippians were satisfied with public institutions vs. the 1996 survey where only 65 percent stated satisfaction. Participants overwhelmingly agreed that money is being spent on education and economic development and that the passing grade of IHLs is A-B; public high schools is B-C-D; junior colleges grade is close behind IHL. Participants felt that the right number of degree programs is being offered yet they want to increase the number of different programs offered. Participants also wanted out of state students in Mississippi IHLs. Other questions and responses included: 43 percent thought tuition was too high; 42 percent thought hardship on families; geographic districts of IHL OK; 65 percent want more spent on public universities and services and of this 65 percent, target taxes on alcohol and tobacco; all 100 percent said to add tax to tobacco, alcohol, and casino. Survey taken during an economic slump; therefore, climate may be favorable in "better" times for taxation.

Mr. Thomas Colbert presented his Report on Task Force on Efficiencies. This was a presentation on a shared administrative

computing center among five universities: Alcorn, MUW, JSU, MVSU, and DSU. This proposal is to establish a center at JSU and consolidate university computing using Banner; funding for FY 2004; create governance committees (not a IHL center but a network organizational consortium); hire consultant to layout detail and plan and to project plan; four of five “interested” universities already running Banner (JSU not); report regularly to IHL Task Force. Benefits of shared system included: smarter allocation of people and computers; more bullet proof system; cost savings for future software and hardware enhancements; increased efficiencies through improved use of Banner by University staff and students. There were concerns expressed by the five universities such as feeling of uncertainty of actual cost savings; the inability for customization among the five IHLs; each IHL not having “own unique” system; employment of those running system—contract vs. regular employees; and security issues. Proposal will be voted on in November.

#### Student Life Center Project Unveiling, October 18

The unveiling of the architect’s model was held at 10 a.m. in the Union. The model was designed by architect Larry Albert and produced by our Mississippi Polymer Institute. Plans are to begin the initial phase of the project by the end of the 2002 fall semester. The project is estimated to cost \$47 million, the largest in USM history. Extending to the north end of the Union building, McCleskey and McMillin Halls will be torn down. All offices located in these two buildings will be relocated.

#### Cabinet Meeting, October 28

Blake Hamm announced that a meeting with administrators was scheduled for 7 p.m. regarding the controversy over the ENG 203 being offered only online. Students want an option to take as a “regular” class. Of the 829 students enrolled the beginning of the semester, 400 have dropped. This ENG 203 is required, students want an option; it is a hardship for some students to get to campus regularly to have access to computers. On Tuesday, October 29, a press conference will be held at 2:15 p.m. at the Lake Terrace Convention Center to kickoff a concerted effort between the Area Development partnership and USM and local businesses to fill M.M. Roberts Stadium for “Hattiesburg’s ESPN Game Night at the Rock,”

Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m. against Louisville. The Golden Eagle football team and coaches will receive a send-off for their trip to Fort Worth, Texas, for a Wednesday night televised game against TCU. For the November 14 football game offices will be closed at 12:15 p.m. in Hattiesburg so parking can be blocked. Area businesses have been encouraged to let employees off by 3 p.m. to enjoy tailgating festivities. Dr. Williams announced the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Advanced Education Center and the new library will be held on Tuesday, November 5.

Press Conference, Lake Terrace Convention Center, October 29

Mary Sumrall and I attended the press conference to kickoff efforts between the Area Development Partnership and USM to involve local businesses to help fill the stadium for the November 14 televised (ESPN2) football game against Louisville. Area banks were recognized at this press conference. Local realtors, insurance agents, and small businesses will be recognized at upcoming press conferences over the next few weeks leading up to November 14 ballgame. Buses carrying the team drove through the Convention Center parking lot while all those gathered cheered the team on as they began their trip to Fort Worth, Texas, for the Wednesday night football game against TCU.

Women's Caucus, October 30

I was invited to attend the Women's Caucus sponsored by the Committee on Services and Resources for Women to represent staff. The caucus was to focus attention on the needs of women students, faculty, and staff at USM. A panel discussion moderated by Stacy Reischman, chair of the USM dance department, began at 12:15 p.m. Short presentations were made by Denise von Herrmann, chair and assistant professor of arts and sciences at USM Gulf Coast; Vrita Delaine, assistant to the vice president for student services; Maureen Ryan, associate provost for institutional effectiveness; Becky Woodrick, USM's affirmative action officer; Ellen Weinauer, director of the Women's Studies program at USM; and USM students Jessica Neno and Leah Giamalva. A few concerns mentioned during the question-and-answer session that followed included: for students attending the Gulf Coast campuses, services are not available, i.e., health clinic, counseling center, child care, etc.; poor lighting on USM campuses; policies not clearly stated, such as for

pregnancy and continued illness (other IHLs have maternity policies vs. Medical Leave).

Fall Employee Appreciation Lunch, October 31

The annual appreciation picnic was held on the alumni lawn from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kenton McNeese, Don Cabana, and myself had the honor of judging those offices that competed in the office contest. All enjoyed food, fun, and fellowship!

5.2 President-Elect's Report - Kenton McNeese

Faculty Senate, Friday, October 18, 2002

Pam and I attended the Faculty Senate for the month of October. Dr. Lochhead presented "Onward and Upward", a presentation on current trends in education and the evaluation of faculty at The University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Cabana reported that there may be a 10 percent cut for the 03-04 academic year, and that no bridge monies were available to defray the impact. The University has purchased property at the Cloverleaf mall for \$1.2 million and property off of Pearl Street for a reported \$1 million. The question has been presented to administration as to the funding of these acquisitions. A response should be provided at the next scheduled meeting. Dr. Henry reported concerns with the Budget Committee meeting due to poor attendance. He encouraged those that were representatives of the committee to make it a priority to be present at these all-important meetings.

Ticket writing on the campus has been slow due to two unfilled positions. The transportation department is currently advertising for individuals to fill these vacant positions. A gated lot will be in place for the spring semester. An additional fee will be assessed to the faculty and staff members wishing to take advantage this designated gated lot. If the lot does not sell out between faculty and staff, then there is potential for students to park in this lot after paying the additional fee.

The faculty senate will host a brown bag luncheon with Governor Musgrove, Thursday, November 7 at 11:30 a.m. in commons A, B, and C.

### 5.3 Assignment of Action Items – None

### 6.0 Old Business – None

### 7.0 Committee Reports

#### 7.1 Constitution and Bylaws – Kathy Hayman

A Constitution and Bylaws package was distributed but no comments have been returned. This is a result of discussions held concerning representation of membership categories for the coast campuses. Currently the make up of Staff Council is decided by EEOC category at the Hattiesburg Campus and by physical location for the coast campuses. The College of Marine Sciences actually encompasses several physical locations. A suggestion was made that each coast campus could have its own Staff Association. The chairman of each association could be the representative to the Staff Council. The Staff Council will review this suggestion.

#### 7.2 Legislative – Rusty Anderson – no report

#### 7.3 Salaries and Benefits – Shannon Davis – no report

#### 7.4 University Relations and Cultural Diversity – Robin Johnson

The committee is currently working on action item #83 with reference to the \$100 book allowance. Concerning action item #86, Dr. Joe Paul will meet with members of residence life maintenance face to face.

#### 7.5 Technology and Training – Lin Harper – no report

The next committee meeting will be at 9 a.m. December 3, in Union Room C.

#### 7.6 Other Committee Reports

##### A. Parking Appeals Committee – David Kinsey

There were a total of 26 Appeal Forms accepted and presented to the court. Of those 13 wished to be present with four being upheld

and nine being denied. There were 13 appeals that did not wish to be present, with all of those being denied.

B. Transportation Committee – Polly Odom – no report

C. Master Plan – Rusty Anderson – no report

D. Student Life Center – Kathy Hayman

There was a great turn out for the unveiling of the Student Life Center Model. Construction should begin during the Holiday Break.

E. Sexual Harassment Committee – Joan Brashears – no report

F. Calendar Committee – Kathy Hayman

There will not be a meeting until next year.

8.0 New Business – none

9.0 Announcements

9.1 The annual Staff Council Holiday Reception will be Wednesday,

December 11, from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. in the Polly Stout Banquet rooms located in the University Commons.

9.2 Santa’s Bargain Basement will be held Saturday, December 7, in Sports Arena.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

After the meeting Staff Council was treated to a wonderful luncheon prepared by the staff at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Busche  
Recording Secretary  
November 5, 2002