

Minutes of Meeting January 29, 2008

University Council convened at 9:00AM in the University Center Cypress Room

I. Welcome and Update (President Zaccari)

Legislative Process Update

- VSU has been permitted to began looking at 1st PhD programs. Restrictions include no Science or Pharmacy programs.
- Capital Improvement project for Nevins Hall is in pre-budget package, if approved Jan09 is estimated start.

Update on Master Planning Projects:

- Football needs a temporary facility as Union and field house projects get underway, location TBD.
- There are several proposed options for Georgia Hall, all with varying degrees of impact to trees on site. New options were developed to minimize tree impact. Construction will begin in late May or early June, and will last until Fall 09.

II. University Wide Strategic Goals (Dr. Coons Yates)

- Introduction of retention efforts by reviewing Retention and Enrollment goal.

III. Retention Study Presentation (Dr. Kristina Cragg) - *see attached documentation*

- Statistical analysis to identify students who likely need to develop a Student Success Plan.
- HS GPA and first semester university GPA key indicators of retention success.
- Focused interventions for students will continue and might include summer bridge programs.

IV. Sophomore Year Experience Presentation (Dr. Kurt Keppler) - *see attached documentation*

- Programs have been developed to target Freshmen retention efforts and have been successful.
- New programs need to target sophomores.
- Focus groups with current Sophomores, review of “Best Practices,” implementation of mentor groups, career counseling models, cohorts, and specialized residence halls may be effective.
- This concept is one of the initiatives proposed to enhance retention at VSU.

V. SACS Pre-Planning Presentation (Dr. Jane Kinney & Michael Savoie) - *see attached documentation*

- SACS is the accrediting body for 11 states in the southern region.
- In November 2007 a pre-audit was conducted.
- To prepare now, each department or Administrative unit should evaluate their assessment program to ensure it is viable and up to date.
- QEP committee is soliciting ideas for Quality Enhancement Plans from campus now.
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VI. Planning Data Base Reminder (Dr. Christy Yates)

- Update status regularly (monthly or quarterly updates are recommended).
- University will continue to use data for budget planning and initiative review.
- Database will be used for SACS preparation, reporting and compliance.

VII. Salary Study and Salary Model Review (Dr. Kristina Cragg)) - *see attached documentation*

- In 2004 a Faculty and Staff Salary study was commissioned.
- The goal was to compare salaries and increase VSU’s Salaries toward the market.
- The study was conducted with a detailed evaluation and analysis using available market data.
- \$1.525M in new money, impacting 474 faculty and staff over a 2 year period.
- The study will be revised to reflect changing market data on a routine basis.
- Dr. Carter initiated a discussion regarding the perception among some faculty that salaries appear to have been flattened by faculty rank and suggested this is an issue that the University should look into in the future.

- Dr. Cates echoed these concerns on behalf of the Department Head's Council and VP Levy and Pres. Zaccari offered explanations for how the model was originally developed and the rationale behind it, as well as the University's intention to study such perceptions in future versions of the salary model

VIII. Staff Salary Study Update (Dr. Denise Bogart) - *see attached documentation*

- As of January 08 all employees with salary levels below the minimum of the new pay grade from 17-47 will be increased to the new level.
- Beginning February 08 the Classification and Compensation Analyst will be benchmarking all Staff positions and their salaries.

IX. S.A.V.E. and SGA Partnership for Environmental Conference at VSU (Dr. Yates read SAVE statement)

- SSREC, Southeast Student Renewable Energy Conference, is a collaborative effort to bring students from the Southeast to encourage and educate them to use the tools needed to promote energy efficiency on campuses.
- S.A.V.E is Georgia Students for Sustainability on VSU's campus.
- Conference will be held from 4pm on Friday through Sunday, with workshops, speakers, and events on campus and in downtown.

X. Information Item: Parking Update

- Timed spaces will change from 20 minutes to 90 minutes **EXCLUDING** the ones located at the UC and Student Health Center.
- The parking garages will be open for Fall 08.

XI. PeachNet Update (Joe Newton)

- Network outage due to squirrels chewing through insulation on cables in counties to the north.
- Valdosta is currently a spur, not looped, so the current cable path lacks redundant connection .

XII. Information Item: ODK Leadership Honorary Reactivation (Dr. Christy Yates)

- ODK will reactivate Honorary Leadership and seek recommendations for students from campus.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:20AM

Members Present:

President Zaccari	Christy Coons Yates
Ralph Allen	Denise Bogart
Carl Cates	Richard Hammond
Verna Harvey	Kurt Keppler
Christine James	Michael Noll
Joe Newton	Maggie Viverette
Ean- James Eaton (representing Danielle Everson)	Jonathan Stroble
Gary Kuhlmann (representing Ray Sable)	Bobby Flowers
Richard Carter (representing Brad Bergstrom)	Traycee Martin
Yvonne LeRoy-Landers (representing Jim Black)	Louis Levy
Sandra Fletcher	

Advisory Members Present:

Russ Mast
 Kristina Cragg
 Walter Peacock
 Laverne Gaskins
 Thressea Boyd

Members Absent:

Shirley Hardin (due to a teaching conflict, Dr. Hardin will request an alternate be appointed for the Spring Semester)
 Herb Rinehard (conflict with Athletics internal staff meeting)

Guests:

Rob Kellner
Mike Savoie
Julie Lee

Jill Rountree
Jane Kinney
Jeanne Severns

Next Meeting:

February 26th at 9am, UC Cypress Room

If you would like to add a discussion item or announcement to the University Council agenda, please e-mail your request to Niki Mitchell (numitchell@valdosta.edu) at least 1 week prior to the scheduled meeting.