

PIE Council Minutes
November 16, 2007
1:30 p.m.
Welty Boardroom

Members Present: Nicole Dilg, Irene Miller, Eric Daffron, Shaochen Yang, Marie Byrne, Mark Bean, Larry Jones, Nora Miller, Gary Bouse, John Davis, Carla Lowery, Gloria Bunnell, Patricia Donat (Chair), Bucky Wesley (guest), Sandra Jordan (guest)

Members Absent: James Ward, Sally Pearson, Randy Stewart, Bobby Fugitt, Twila Alpe, Dave Haffly, Tina Blackwell, Amy Swingle, Cassie Derden, Nathan Wilson, Perry Sansing, and Claudia Limbert

Items Distributed: Agenda, Minutes of September 21, 2007, MUW Enrollment Management Plan, Briefing on MUW 20/20, W-2009 Progress Report

The minutes from the September 21, 2007 meeting were approved by Council members.

Dr. Bucky Wesley gave a report on the MUW Enrollment Management Plan. A synopsis of the 52-page report was distributed to Council members. This report is available in its entirety on line at <http://www.muw.edu/vpss/EMP.pdf>. Dr. Wesley stated that the Enrollment Plan is meant to provide a base for planning and a means for better communication and collaboration. The plan reflects a joint effort between academic affairs and student affairs. There are four distinct markets that we can attract: graduates, traditional freshmen, traditional transfers and non-traditional students. At present, 60% of our enrollment comes from the local surrounding counties. Future growth will depend on providing programming in a wide range of course delivery formats.

The goals of the Enrollment Plan include:

- Overall growth will increase from 2.5% to 5% per year
- Increase in freshmen-to-sophomore retention rates
- Increase in six-year graduation rates

Dr. Jordan added that the typical student today is no longer 19 years of age and working only part-time. The typical student is no longer the “traditional” student. Students today are employed more hours. They are older and they come with credit from other institutions. In addition, current projections show that K-12 will be graduating fewer students. If we do not seek other demographics, we will not have growth.

Dr. Wesley stated that the average college graduate has attended 2.6 institutions. We have more adults coming from community colleges. In 1970 MUW had a student population of 2,400 with 1,800 living on campus and 600 students commuting. Today we have 600 living on campus and 1,800 commuting. We need to recognize today's market and find a balance for growth. Dr. Wesley said that the Enrollment Management Plan is meant to be a fluid document and will likely evolve over time.

Dr. Jordan presented the Council a briefing on MUW 20/20. The initial meeting held on October 29th was attended by faculty, staff, alumni, students and business and political leaders. She said the meeting was positive and exciting. The next phase of MUW 20/20 will be discussions by groups across campus on the challenges and opportunities we face. This will be a year-long process whereby we envision our future and establish a clear direction and goals for the institution. As we come to the conclusion of our W2009 planning process and look to our 125-year anniversary, it is an appropriate time to start a new planning cycle. The process of institutional planning should be on-going and evolutionary.

Dr. Jordan then presented the Council details from the Mississippi IHL 2007-08 through 2014-15 Strategic Plan. The main goal for the IHL and state institutions is to increase the number and quality of baccalaureate graduates. In order to achieve this goal, the IHL has identified areas in which all state institutions should concentrate. Some of these areas are:

- Increase quality of academic facilities
- Increase distance learning
- Develop a more formal 2+2 system
- Increase retention rates
- Increase availability of academic advising and tutoring
- Implement National Center for Academic Transformation
- Improve customer service
- Upgrade residence halls

Dr. Jordan said that we need to be aware of the IHL Strategic Plan indicators as we look to set our goals.

Dr. Donat presented the Council a progress report for W-2009. There are ten goals in W-2009. Progress on Goal No. 1 Strategic Objectives:

- 1.1 – MUW faculty salaries remain below the average for peer institutions for faculty with advanced ranks. There have been gains in starting salaries for new faculty.
- 1.2 – There have been changes made to improve student learning. These include curriculum modifications, focused workshops and refined course assignments. Academic support and administrative units also have made changes to promote more effective service.

- 1.3 – Class sizes have remained steady.
- 1.4 – Student-faculty interaction is provided through internships, student teaching, faculty-sponsored student organizations and competitions.
- 1.5 – Several areas have updated infrastructure with SMART classrooms, computer labs, and equipment.
- 1.6 – The Honors College received a gift from Ina E. Gordy to enhance honors programming and support scholarships. Programming for a residential honors program has been enhanced to include a study abroad experience following the first year.
- 1.7 – In 2006-07, 19 students participated in the MUW sponsored study abroad experience in London.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in the Welty Boardroom.