

Gordon Ford College of Business
Leadership Team Meeting
Via Zoom
Thursday, April 15, 2021
9:00 am

Members present: Drs. Ray Blankenship, Indu Chhachhi, Lukas Forbes, Alex Lebedinsky, Whitney Peake, Mark Ross, Evelyn Thrasher, and Chris Shook, presiding.

Dr. Shook asked for approval of the minutes from the April 1, 2021 meeting. Dr. Ray Blankenship made a motion to approve the minutes, and Dr. Whitney Peake seconded. The minutes were approved with no change.

Dr. Ross thanked Dr. Shook, Dr. Thrasher, and Provost Stevens for their assistance in a speedy turn around for hiring a new faculty member. The Accounting Department had an unexpected resignation and they were able to fill the vacancy quickly.

The Finance Department is having their advisory board meeting soon, and the GFCB Advisory Council is meeting tomorrow.

Dr. Shook met recently with Dr. Bud Fischer, the newly named Provost. They had a good conversation. One topics of discussion was the enrollment of our college and how other colleges are impacted by our enrollment.

Enrollments for fall 2021 continue to look strong, as they are currently 2% above where we were this time last year. Housing deposits are still running about last year's number, also around 2%, so it is hopeful the trend continues.

The Council of Academic Deans met recently, and Dr. Shook provided a brief update on those conversations.

- There will be an update to the Intellectual Property Policy.
- This week is Graduate student appreciation week.
- There was discussion of those that have taken advantage of the VISIP wanted to continue to have office space in their respective buildings.
 - Dr. Shook explained that anyone who participates in VSIP within GFCB will no longer have office space in Grise Hall.
- There seems to be uncertainty at the university level concerning budgets. There have been questions regarding the Axiom software and its capabilities. It was announced that there will be another campus-wide budget reduction, matching last year's reduction.
 - Dr. Shook gave a brief history of our GFCB budget and where it currently stands. He has requested adjunct salaries and a full-time permanent person to replace our Student Services Coordinator position.

The dean recently saw Provost Stevens for their regular monthly meeting. He asked when the Healthy on the Hill guidelines will be revised since students, faculty and staff have access to the Covid vaccine. There is conflicting information circulating. Dr. Shook will follow up with Dr.

David Oliver, Environmental, Health and Safety Director, for his input. Dr. Thrasher shared that she received a question from a staff member regarding the email sent out from President Caboni. The message stated that, “**beginning June 1, all faculty and staff (unless their role has been deemed fully remote) should plan to perform at least 50% of their work on campus** (some areas will be higher, up to 100% in-person).” Dr. Shook confirmed GFCB plans are to be back to 100% in person on June 1.

Department chairs should be sending out some sort of acknowledgement of philanthropic gifts on a regular basis. It can be a letter, a notecard, email, etc. It’s up to each department how they chose to thank their donors.

GFCB will be undergoing some organizational restructuring.

- Ms. Monica Duvall has been named the Director of Student Success. She will oversee student’s college experience from the beginning to the end– recruiting, advising, PEAK, and graduation. This will allow us to have more efficiencies in the student experiences and focus on their success.
- Dr. Shook would like to initiate a group, called GFCB First. This will be a targeted effort for first-generation students, meeting once a month or so, to share helpful information. He would like to work with Liz Fogle, Industrial Liaison of Ogden College, to get some input. GFCB faculty and staff who are also first-generation college students will be invited to participate as well.
- Provost Stevens has approved an Associate Dean for MBA, although the budget may be restrictive. The graduate programs would fall under the Associate Dean for MBA and the Department Chair. The external centers would also report to the Associate Dean. This would improve our efforts of focusing on outreach. The centers geared for student involvement would continue to report to the department chairs. As things move forward, additional discussion of the position’s role will occur.

Dr. Ross asked about GAs for next year, and the anticipation is to have the same number as we had last year. Dr. Shook has requested funding for additional student worker support (given our staff restructuring). As of now, departments can expect the same number of student workers as last year.

Dr. Peake asked about the plans for graduation. There will be no college-wide reception for the students this year. Ms. Nicola Sparks recently attended a commencement committee meeting. Dr. Thrasher will follow up with her and will send out an email today with the latest updates.

Dr. Chhachhi said that he realized our GFCB faculty who are retiring will be recognized during our college-wide meeting next Friday, but he asked if there were thoughts on anything more personal to recognize them. Dr. Peake explained the Management Department is having a limited gathering at Baker Arboretum. She shared the process for getting approval to host the event.

Our GFCB Over-The-TOP awards will be recognized next Friday as well. Department chairs will be presenting the awards.

Professional Development funds were briefly discussed.

Details are being worked out for a retreat to include the Department Chairs. They are asked to be on the lookout for more information.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am. The next Leadership Team meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2021 at 9:00 am via Zoom.