

**Gordon Ford College of Business**

Leadership Team Meeting

GH 443

Thursday, September 2, 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 August 19, 2021 meeting. Dr. Evelyn Thrasher made a motion to approve the minutes, and Dr. Ray Blankenship seconded. The minutes were approved with no change.

Dr. Shook asked if anyone had a 'GFCB Minute' to share.

Dr. Lebedinsky explained an economics student completed an internship with JPMorgan Chase this summer. The student recently received a job offer to join them full time.

Mr. Jim Lindsey sent an email to Dr. Thrasher, expressing his appreciation for how the recent Head for the Hill was handled by the GFCB colleagues. He commented that departments displayed comradery with one another and departments were working together to assist students ensuring they spoke to the appropriate people. The department chairs also shared their pleasure that the event was well attended.

Dr. Chhachhi stated that Ms. Doreen Williams-Holmes is working with Ms. Liz Fogle on several social media initiatives. He also shared that the college's advisors are using a different software, Calendly. Some students may have difficulty using it so they are working on a short video tutorial.

It was brought up that there have been a few hiccups during the beginning of the semester, with inconsistencies and inefficiencies with overrides and getting students into classes. Dr. Thrasher explained the process, and that it should begin with the student reaching out to the instructor. From there, if approved, the request goes to the department chair. An effort to streamline communication will be made going forward. Dr. Thrasher will talk it over with Ms. Monica Duvall, ensuring she is in the loop.

Dr. Shook provided a few brief updates:

- President Caboni has begun a monthly meeting with all the deans and his Executive Committee. It was discussed that despite a decrease in students the impact on the budget is not anticipated to be large. The GFCB enrollments are about the same as this time last year.
- A VSIP update was given on the status of empty positions.
- He is working with the WKU Foundation and Philanthropy offices. They are currently reviewing past gift agreements.

The dean asked if the departments offered mentoring for their junior faculty. Several department chairs explained how they support their newest faculty. Dr. Shook shared with the Leadership

Team that Provost Fischer is passionate about reaching out and providing guidance to junior faculty members.

Dean Shook asked the Department Chairs to make him aware if there were any concerns for faculty continuances.

Communication with SARC (Student Accessibility Resources Center) is incredibly important. Faculty should feel free to reach out to them if the need arises.

The Leadership Team was asked for their thoughts of having LT Plus meetings. They would include inviting others to join a meeting on a regular basis (once a month, once a quarter, etc.). Discussion will continue at a later time.

The President anticipates a salary increase to occur in January. It is expected to be on a reoccurring cycle, and not just a one-time payment. The Dean asked the Department Chairs to think about the process and how they would prefer to handle the increases. He asked if they would rather make the decision, or if a task force be established. History of how the salary increases were determined previously was discussed. Suggestions were given on how future adjustments should be made.

A list of past Aim High awards and recipients was distributed to the Leadership Team. The Dean presented the data as a means to explain why there were concerns about continuing the Aim High program. There will be a task force established to make a recommendation on Aim High, Professional Development and travel funds.

There have been a few reports of rude behavior to the office staff. The Chairs were asked to pass along to their faculty that they are expected to treat staff with respect and common courtesy. The dean wants the staff to know that they are empowered to stand up for themselves.

There was a conversation on current admission requirement criteria led by Dr. Thrasher. A list of criteria was dispersed to the Leadership Team. The admissions criteria is overly complicated and a legacy of past AACSB standards. As part of the core curriculum revisions, the “pre” distinctions will be eliminated and students will be admitted directly into the majors. Each department has the option to determine program requirements and course requirements to best ensure student success.

The Department Chairs were asked to share any program revision updates in their area:

- Dr. Ross is proposing to make a new course – Acct 110 – Accounting for Management. It would be a pre-requisite for Acct 200 and Acct 310. It was suggested to change the name to ‘Accounting for Decision Making’. This will replace the current Acct 201.
- Dr. Blankenship is planning to update the data analytics class. It will include a more in-depth look at analyzing data using tools like Excel, as opposed to exposure to all functions in Excel.
- Dr. Lebedinsky asked about a one-hour course for juniors. Dr. Thrasher explained what the student’s needs are and said that she and Ms. Duvall will be reaching out to each department in the next week or so. Dr. Chhachhi explained the model used by the Finance Department in FIN300.
- Dr Shook expressed his appreciation to the Department Chairs for their willingness to look at their programs for improvements.

The dean asked the Leadership Team if they had any other items for the good of the college they wanted to share. Dr. Ross told the group that a recruiter from BKD was going to present at 2:30 in the Grise Hall auditorium. He went on to say that she and Ms. Adrienne Browning will be looking at their resumes in preparation for next week’s Meet the Firms event.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 9:00 am, in the Dean's Conference Room, GH 443.