

Gordon Ford College of Business

Leadership Team Meeting

GH 443

Thursday, September 16, 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. Dana Cosby, guest.

Dr. Dana Cosby, Director of the MBA program, presented the need for additional faculty to teach courses to the department chairs. She provided a brief update on the MBA programs, enrollments, and faculty compensation.

Dr. Shook asked for approval of the minutes from the September 2, 2021 meeting. Dr. Lukas Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes, and Dr. Whitney Peake seconded. The minutes were approved with no change.

The recent Meet the Firms event was successful and well attended according to Dr. Ross. The employers appreciated the dean taking time to be there and also commented that the student participation was sizeable.

Mr. Jeff Peake is overseeing a new student organization in the Marketing Department, WKU Sales Club. Dr. Forbes expects the club to grow in membership and include students from other disciplines. He anticipates corporate sponsorship for club activities. Dr. Forbes also congratulated Dr. Lebedinsky's daughter, Maya, for being selected as a National Merit semifinalist.

The Business LLC students recently attended a Hot Rods ballgame. Dr. Shook commented on the success of the event, the engagement of the students, and his appreciation for the faculty and staff who are working hard for the students to have a positive experience.

The GFCB1 (first-generation students) recently gathered for a 'flamingo flocking' on President Caboni's yard. While the group was small, it was a fun event and the students provided input on what information first-generation students would find helpful.

Dr. Thrasher shared that Hannah Lindsey, CIS's Jim Lindsey's daughter, began working for Abound Wealth Management about two years ago and they are wanting to hire more WKU graduates. Hannah visited the company on a GFCB sponsored field trip.

Dr. Lebedinsky and Dr. Chhachhi mentioned that both Deloitte and Vanguard are also requesting WKU graduates more and more to fill positions within their company.

Dr. Shook provided a few brief updates:

- He will send out a rough-draft of the Substantive Change policy to department chairs for their review.

- Admissions is in the beginning stages of hiring a new Director. The leadership team can expect to be involved in GFCB's recruitment efforts. That process is still being developed.
- The Provost has put a pause on all financial reserves.
- They are looking at which lines will be reinstated from the vacancies left because of VSIP.

The department chairs were asked to consider reengaging our GFCB Centers, post-COVID shutdown. Dr. Thrasher suggested one way to do that is to reach out to local non-profits for potential projects, needs assessments, etc. Although it would not be revenue generating, it would get us out in the community and a way to connect on a different level. It was suggested to host local organizations for a meet-and-greet session to begin building relationships. There was interest from several departments.

The department chairs were asked to share any program revision updates in their area:

- Dr. Chhachhi reported the Finance department has made progress on both concentrations: Personal Financial Planning as well as Business Finance.
- Dr. Thrasher commented that she and the advisors are meeting to review the new core and to get their input for predicting course needs.
- Dr. Blankenship said that they are hoping to move CIS 141 to colonnade but may not meet the deadline. The Information Systems department is in the process of redesigning a new core course which will be a Business Data Analytics course.

Dr. Ross asked about ACCT 110, 200, and 201 course changes and how they pertain to the catalog and prerequisites. Dr. Thrasher will follow up with Ms. Jennifer Hammonds for clarification.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 am. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 9:00 am, in the Dean's Conference Room, GH 443.