

Gordon Ford College of Business

Leadership Team Meeting

GH 443

Thursday, December 9, 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 November 11, 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. Shook encouraged the department chairs to read the student feature that was published yesterday. The article explained how Dr. Thrasher, Dr. Chhachhi, and Dr. Pat Jordan helped the student. It serves as a reminder of why we are here.

Jake Byl was recently recognized by the Office of Sponsored Programs for submitting a grant early in his career and for successfully getting his first grant funded.

Our college's applications are currently outpacing last year's applications and are on pace with two years ago, which set a record. Our goal is to get prospective students on campus by offering VIP Tours. We are also giving out scholarships to DECA and FBLA student organizations, during the spring semester. Our hope is this will increase our yield.

Dr. Shook provided several general updates:

- Provost Fischer will put out a call for proposals for a Quality Enhancement Projects to meet SACSSOC requirements, so be on the lookout.
- Mandatory COVID vaccines are on hold for now.
- Several policies were reviewed.
- The RFQ for architects is out. A meeting will be held soon to select an architect team to build the new GFCB building.
- Axiom and the university's budget are still being examined.
- It was determined in a recent dean's office staff meeting that the week of December 13th will be Holiday Spirit Week. Anyone may participate.

The Information Systems Department is proposing a name change. The faculty wants to have a name that is more representative of their current curriculum. Analytics and Information Systems was suggested by the faculty. The department chairs wondered if the suggested name may cause confusion and recommended Data Analytics or Business Data Analytics. Dr. Blankenship will follow up with the IS faculty and ask their preference.

Program revision updates by department include:

- The Marketing Department has met a couple of times and approved 4 areas of emphasis within Marketing that will include several options. These options will allow students to develop additional marketing skillsets.

- The Finance Department presented their proposed curriculum to their advisory council recently and are still getting feedback. They are adding several areas of emphasis. Their proposals will be ready for the January curriculum meeting.
- The Management Department passed their proposed changes by concentration. The department worked to maintain a broad-based approach in their course selection to keep the ability for students to switch among concentrations flexible. The proposals will be ready for consideration by the college at the January curriculum meeting.
- Dr. Thrasher shared the results of her recent meeting with Dr. Susane Leguizamon and Dr. Stephen Locke about the extensive use of Excel in ECON 206.
- Information Systems met recently and discussed their Applied Data Analytics certificate. It was revised to include the new core courses. Changes that allow students pursuing the new Finance concentration to get the Applied Data Analytics certificate was also added.
- The Accounting Department has mapped out their curriculum. They have created two new courses, one is required and one is an elective. ECON 306 or ECON 307 will be added as a requirement.

The deans and chairs were encouraged to improve their communications.

The college will have a spring meeting. Details will be shared once confirmed.

The dean was asked about a recent email from the Strategy, Operations, and Finance office, stating that salary guidelines for the January 1, 2022 increase would be sent out to the Deans and Senior Divisional Leaders. The guidelines have not yet been sent out.

Dr. Forbes shared that the Marketing Department currently has around 20 applications for their opening for an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Peake explained that South Warren High School has invited the Management Department to come speak to students in the spring during their SWORD class (much like a 'homeroom' period). She encouraged other departments to participate. She will send an email to the chairs with the details and they can forward to their departments.

Dr. Thrasher described how we are also working with local high schools by offering dual credits for several business courses.

Dr. Blankenship said the Information Systems Department submitted CIS 141 to the Colonnade Committee for approval. The job search for an Assistant Professor is progressing. They plan to have Zoom interviews the week after Christmas with the 8 candidates.

Dean Shook reminded the department chairs that per Provost Fischer's directive, they must give him only the pros and cons of any search conducted. He will make the official hiring decision.

A reminder about lunch for the deans and department chairs on Tuesday, December 14. It will be at Rafferty's at 11:30 am.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 am. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 9:00 am, in the Dean's Conference Room, GH 443.