

Gordon Ford College of Business
Leadership Team Meeting
Via Zoom
Thursday, January 20, 2022
9:00 am

1. Approval of December 9, 2021 Minutes
2. GFCB Minute
3. CAD and General Updates – Dr. Chris Shook
4. Center Director Report Timing – Dr. Evelyn Thrasher
5. GFCB Library – Dr. Lukas Forbes
6. Program Revision Updates - Department Chairs
7. Other Items for the Good of the College

Meeting began at 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. Whitney Peak moved and Dr. Ray Blankenship seconded a motion for approval of the minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously without change.

Dr. Chhachhi mentioned that there was an article in the WKU Spirit Magazine on the Center for Financial Success. The hope is this might spur some interaction and donations. Dr. Blankenship mentioned that the board of regents is voting on the MS degree with the expectation that this would be approved.

CAD updates: There will be a policy forthcoming on distance learning. Distance courses will be adjusted via a pilot in which there will be guidance to ensure interaction between student and faculty. This will impact primarily our master degree programs. Examples would include having regularly scheduled office hours via Zoom to provide an opportunity to interact with distance students.

There is a discussion to remove the title “department head” and make everyone be called “department chair.”

There is a revised policy for deans and associate dean in terms of evaluation and term limits. Evaluations will begin the beginning to the fourth year. This will occur in Fall 2022 for Dean Shook. In addition, there will be clarification on the term for associate deans to include a review.

There is supposed to be a consistent messaging with regard to snow days, tornado, etc. There is a committee that determines what occurs on snow days, etc. When there is a snow day, only asynchronous online classes can proceed. No other classes should be held. This is to prevent courses that are in person requiring students to do a Zoom class when that student does not have the ability to Zoom.

Messaging occurred to please emphasize to faculty that we must adhere to the Healthy on the Hill guidelines with regard to issues such as masking and following guidelines with the positive Covid test.

Budget discussion are ongoing with regard to implementation of RAMP and other budgetary issues. There remains some confusion on actual data/numbers/carryforward based on previous budgetary years. There remains some uncertainty on reserves, spending amounts, etc. There remains an issue because the new scholarship program only “works” if enrollment increases. Budgeting and accounting for benefits remains a source of discussion.

There is no new update on the new building.

Discussion is currently occurring to look at expansion of “class time” to ensure that we don’t have all classes scheduled (for example) from 10am to 2pm.

Dr. Thrasher updated on Dr. Pat Jordan’s replacement. We have received 16 applications and interviews are being schedule for the coming weeks. The goal would be to have this person in place before we get to fall enrollment. Enrollment numbers continue to look good for GFCB.

Dr. Thrasher discussed a partnership with SKYCTS. She will be meeting with them in February to discuss a relationship with WKU and ways to improve.

Center director reports are due February 1st. Dr. Thrasher discussed the idea of having the director report due at the same time as the director’s annual evaluation. Discussion occurred and chairs were in favor of doing this change so that it is consistent. Discussion occurred with doing the report as planned in February, and then doing a report in the fall in conjunction with the evaluation and have that report be a 12 month report (so there would be overlap).

Dr. Forbes discussed the idea of doing some type of “library” for non-academic type books. Dean Shook linked this discussion to the idea that has come up often with regard to a faculty lounge type area. Discussion occurred about possibly doing a smaller level in the “Zoom” room, or perhaps within the faculty lounge area. Discussion occurred about making this lounge “nice” to include possibly having a donor be involved.

Program revision updates: Dr. Thrasher commented that the revisions at the department level are for the most part complete, and chairs are now at the stage of getting it ready for the next meeting. Chairs need to have information entered by January 31st to ensure enough time for the February 7th curriculum meeting. Dr. Thrasher indicated that all new changes will directly impact incoming freshman, but there will also be an impact for some sophomores and for transfer students.

Dr. Thrasher discussed the removal of the admissions requirements process which will allow incoming freshman in the fall to be “in” the major. There will be a handful of students who fall into a gray area of admission that will need to be address to possibly “admit” everyone at that time. Discussion occurred on possibly having an “opt-in” process for admission that could occur during the advising process.