

Gordon Ford College of Business
Leadership Team Meeting
Via Zoom
Thursday, September 3, 2020
9:00 am

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

Dr. Dana Cosby provided a brief update on the JUMP program and its relationship with the MBA program. She asked the Leadership Team for their input. There was conversation of the new direction of the MBA program. The Leadership Team was polled for their opinion of whether or not the JUMP program within the MBA should continue. The majority agreed to discontinue the JUMP program within the MBA.

Dr. Cosby also asked for feedback from the department chairs on eliminating the GMAT requirement for admission into the MBA program. She gave a brief presentation of other university's current requirements. Discussion occurred of the standards of the WKU MBA Program and best practices of measuring the caliber of prospective students. A decision was deferred. She also shared the new pay model for the MBA program.

The Winter Session has been adjusted and now will be offered completely online. DELO will continue to administer the Winter Session, but the index will be within each college. If there is a deficit, DELO will cover the difference.

Dr. Chris Shook asked for approval of the minutes from the August 27, 2020 meeting. Dr. Whitney Peake made a motion to approve the minutes, and Dr. Alex Lebedinsky seconded. The minutes were approved with no change.

Dr. Indu Chhachhi shared that Dr. Ron Rhoades is testifying in front of the U.S. Department of Labor regarding its fiduciary rule proposal. He also won the 2020 Frankel Fiduciary prize, which is a national award. Dr. Chhachhi expressed how proud he is of Dr. Rhoades and all his accomplishments.

Dr. Whitney Peake congratulated Dr. Helen Liang as she had a submission named a Best Paper in the Academy of Management Strategic Management Division. Only the top 1% of submissions are recognized as Best Papers. Also, Dr. Ismail Civelek has a manuscript acceptance at a top operations and management science journal. The submission was from an Aim High program grant.

Dr. Alex Lebedinsky mentioned Dr. Jacob Byl was approached by Center for Growth and Opportunity (CGO) at Utah State University to support his research on endangered species at Mammoth Cave National Park. He also explained that one of the students in the actuarial program was offered a position with Anthem.

Dr. Shook provided a brief update on CAD:

- There has been some miscommunication of when classrooms were going to be cleaned. They will be cleaned in the middle of the day if there is enough time between classes. Otherwise, it will be once a day during the early morning.
- Communication to students when they are to isolate has been confusing. Dr. David Oliver has been asked to put recommendations in writing.
- SITE evaluations this year will add a question regarding course modality.
- Staffing plans are to be submitted to the provost by September 15th. The plans should be for existing lines only, as no new lines will be accepted.

Dr. Rob Hale recently sent an email and suggested the spring course schedule imitate the fall schedule in regards to faculty preferences of modality. The due date is September 24. Rooms will be finalized October 16. Dr. Thrasher explained that making the course assignment now will allow for capacity preference. She asked the Leadership Team to touch base with their faculty and she will follow up with them next week. Things to consider while looking at the spring schedule is class capacity, the ability to reschedule the class into a better time, and the ability to have a smaller class if necessary.

Dr. Evelyn Thrasher gave a brief status update of Grise Hall keys. She proposed that part time faculty not have keys to offices. She explained the risks involved with having too many keys handed out. Hindrances and benefits of part-time faculty having keys to the offices were discussed and possible solutions were offered.

Dr. Thrasher gave a history of the GAs purpose in the college. It was explained to the department chairs that the GA's work hours have increased, giving them the availability to assist the departments in proctoring exams if needed.

Dr. Shook thanked members of the leadership team for their participating in today conversations.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am. The next GFAC meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2020 at 9:00 am via Zoom.