

Gordon Ford College of Business
Leadership Team Meeting
Via Zoom
Thursday, January 7, 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 December 8, 2020 meeting. Dr. Ray Blankenship made a motion to approve the minutes, and Dr. Whitney Peake seconded. The minutes were approved with no change.

The Council of Academic Deans met recently to discuss several things, including proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook. Dr. Shook provided a brief update on those conversations.

Dr. Shook led the Leadership Team in a discussion on the upcoming spring semester. He explained that GFCB will be conducting ourselves like the fall semester. No modality changes are allowed. He asked that department chairs to look at their classrooms to ensure the setup is as they were when classes began in August. They were also encouraged to continue following COVID guidelines and protocols. Students received an email asking them to self-isolate before returning to campus at the end of January. The chairs had questions regarding how finals are to be given and the last day for face-to-face instruction at the end of the spring semester. The university's academic calendar reflects there will be no spring break and the end of finals and commencement will be held on April 30. Dr. Shook will follow up with Dr. Rob Hale about how finals are to be conducted. Hybrid modality and how that impacts our international students were also talked about.

Dr. Evelyn Thrasher presented a review of a new data base option for faculty, Chalk and Wire. The program can also be used for documenting internships. Chalk and Wire has an electronic portfolio capability that can be utilized for promotion and tenure review, as well as annual appraisals. She shared some comparisons between what the faculty currently uses, Digital Measures, and what Chalk and Wire offers. She asked the chairs if they felt like their faculty would oppose to moving away from Digital Measures. If not, would they be willing to follow up with adding current information (research, for example) using an Excel spreadsheet template into Chalk and Wire. Knowing the faculty have complained about the lack of efficiency with Digital Measures, the Leadership Team decided to move forward with implementing Chalk and Wire for college use.

Dr. Shook reminded the team of the deadlines for the continuance process for first-year tenure-track faculty.

There will not be a face-to-face college wide meeting this semester. Instead, Dr. Shook would like to host open forums instead. He asked the leadership team for input on what they think the faculty and staff would like to know.

There was a question about professional development funds and the restrictions on those funds. While there continue to be many extra steps in the approval process, we can proceed and see if they expenditures will be approved. Hopefully, more guidance on expenditures is forthcoming.

Ron Rhoades recently shared a Facebook Live video on LinkedIn from KPP, Kentucky Planning Partners, hosting a former student who is currently employed and a current student who is participating in an internship. The students did an excellent job representing our college and the Finance Department in a knowledgeable and professional manner. KPP is extremely pleased to be working with them.

It was mentioned that several departments have received requests to change grades change to “P”. The deadline for students to make their request to the faculty is January 13, 2021, from the faculty to the department chair is January 20, 2021, and department chair to the Registrar’s office is January 27, 2021. Dean Shook reminded the Chairs of the decision rules agreed to and that he had emailed the students about our guidelines. The requests should be denied unless the request is COVID related.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am. The next Leadership Team meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2021 at 9:00 am via Zoom.