

Gordon Ford College of Business
Leadership Team Meeting
Via Zoom
Thursday, February 4, 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 January 21, 2021 meeting. Dr. Ray Blankenship made a motion to approve the minutes, and Dr. Lukas Forbes seconded. The minutes were approved with no change.

Dr. Chhachhi shared with the Leadership Team that Dr. Ron Rhoades has been working diligently on fiduciary advocacy issues. These engagements with DOL and SEC are going to ramp up over the next few months with a change of administration and focus. Dr. Chhachhi commended Dr. Rhoades for his continued service on the national stage.

Dr. Ross congratulated Ms. Kristine Barron's husband on accepting a new position. Because of this, Ms. Barron is resigning her position and moving to Tennessee with her family.

Dr. Shook shared that Dr. Pat Jordan has made the decision to retire, effective June 30.

The Council of Academic Deans met recently, and Dr. Shook provided a brief update on those conversations.

- The Graduate School wants to do a campus-wide virtual graduate ceremony. Look for more information coming from Dr. Ranjit Koodali. There has been an issue of how graduate assistants are getting paid in the second semester. Dr. Koodali is looking in to the best way to address the situation. Dr. Shook will follow up with Dr. Dana Cosby to ask if GFCB MBA office has been impacted.
- There was a brief update on the provost search.
- During the meeting, it was asked how the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) will affect departments, moving forward. It is unclear at this time.
- Fall 2021 classes should be scheduled as under normal, non-Covid, circumstances, using Fall 2019 as a baseline.

Dr. Thrasher led the Leadership Team in a discussion about service being a part of the faculty workload. There is an ongoing concern of lack of participation in the service category from some faculty members. The chairs were encouraged to remind their faculty that service is part of their evaluation process.

Dr. Thrasher received information from the BG Chamber of Commerce and their partnership with DELO. She followed up with Mr. Derek Olive, Continuing & Professional Development Director, and his staff on how GFCB faculty could become involved. She explained the process of how presenters are selected through a bidding process. There are many opportunities to participate in courses as the BG Chamber partners with other area chambers and businesses.

DELO is currently looking at offering webinars and online courses. After learning their current inventory of courses, Dr. Thrasher suggested some that we could offer that our faculty has professional expertise. This is a creative way to engage GFCB faculty and/or centers. She will reach out to the faculty to ask about interest. She will also forward the Leadership Team the catalog of current course offerings.

Discussion continued from the last meeting about the new junior faculty award proposals. Dr. Shook asked the chairs to review the proposals and send their feedback to Dr. Peake. The proposals will be voted on during the next Leadership Team meeting.

Ms. Amanda Trabue, the VP for Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement asked to present to the department chairs. We will schedule a time for her to attend one of our Leadership Team meetings sometime in the next few weeks.

Dr. Chhachhi mentioned training for WRDS is scheduled soon. A few have signed up, but he would like more. He asked the Department Chairs to encourage faculty members to register.

Dr. Peake reminded the Chairs that the last Provost candidate will present during an open forum today at 2:00 pm. She requested that they send their strengths and weaknesses of all candidates to her, so she can share those, anonymously, with the rest of the committee. Faculty is encouraged to do the same.

Several members of GFCB received training on ThankView, and electronic messaging systems, used by the Philanthropy and Development office. We will be able to use this service with college recruiting efforts. Dr. Thrasher will forward the instructions to the Chairs, but also encouraged them to reach out to Mr. Casey Kucera. He is able to a 30 minute demonstration. This system can also be used to send thank you, birthday, and holiday messages to donors.

Our college's enrollment is still looking positive with both undergraduate and graduate students.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am. The next Leadership Team meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2021 at 9:00 am via Zoom.