

**Gordon Ford College of Business**  
Leadership Team Meeting  
Via Zoom  
Thursday, March 18, 2021  
**9:00 am**

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

Dr. Thrasher asked for approval of the minutes from the March 4, 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. Blankenship shared the IS Department has hired a new pedagogical tenure-track faculty member, who will be joining campus in August.

Dr. Thrasher congratulated Dr. Ross in being recognized through Beta Alpha Psi. He was selected as the International IMA/BAP 2021 Business Information Professional of the Year, in the education category.

Since she was on the search committee, Dr. Peake was pleased to announce that WKU has hired a new provost. She commented that several previous colleagues spoke highly of him and she feels he is going to serve the university well.

An email recently went out from WKU and the Medical Center that everyone over 16 years old can now get a vaccine. Faculty are encouraged to share this information with their students.

Dr. Thrasher passed along updates from the Communications Cabinet on behalf of Dr. Shook.

- Commencement for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 graduates will be on May 1 at LT Smith Stadium. GFCB's ceremony will be at 10:00 am, along with CHHS. Commencement for Spring and Summer 2020 graduates will be on May 8, at 10:00 am. Location TBD. Everyone is asked to encourage students to make sure their contact information is current in TopNet as they are using texting (phone numbers) as a way to submit photos for a video.
- Day of Caring will be April 15. Departments will be receiving social media kits and additional information from the Office of Philanthropy.

Dr. Thrasher passed along updates from the Council of Academic Deans on behalf of Dr. Shook.

- The process for replacing those that took advantage of the VSIP program is uncertain.
- The budget for next year is uncertain.
- It is likely that GFCB will have carry forward from winter courses, since we had more than expected in enrollment.
- Fall schedules should be based on Fall 2019. However, departments were urged to use what they learned during the COVID-19 experience to provide better learning

environments for students. If faculty feels like students performed better in a hybrid format, for example, they should reach out to the department chair to discuss the strategic justification of offering the course utilizing a new modality than was offered pre-COVID-19.

It was asked what the expectation is during commencement from department chairs and faculty. The desire is everyone who is able, will attend and support the students.

There were questions of VSIP and when will the confidentiality be lifted. Those wishing to take part in the program have until April 15 to make their decision, so it was thought until that date unless the VSIP applicant grants permission. Concerns of how this affects the covering of classes in the fall were discussed. Dr. Thrasher will follow up with Mr. Tony Glisson, in HR, about the confidentiality of VSIP members and ask how the departments can move forward with planning for the fall semester.

The department chairs were asked if they thought it would be beneficial to host a year-end meeting, much like we normally would do at the beginning of the year. This will provide an opportunity to announce college news (retirements, accomplishments, etc.). Possibly have it around mid-April. The chairs agreed this would be well received in the college.

It was asked what the expectations for GFCB staff during the summer months. The deans' desire is that things go back to normal, as pre-COVID-19. They are checking with the university to confirm protocol before making a final decision. It is hopeful that the department chairs will also have a presence in building.

The GFCB award nominees were discussed and voted on. It was decided further discussion was necessary before voting on the Jefferson award. Chairs will submit a one-page summary on their nominee for review by the Leadership Team before voting during the next meeting. All winners will be announced at a later time.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am. The next Leadership Team meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2021 at 9:00 am via Zoom.