

Gordon Ford College of Business
Leadership Team Meeting
Via Zoom
Thursday, September 24, 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.

Dr. Chris Shook asked for approval of the minutes from the September 17, 2020 meeting. Dr. Alex Lebedinsky made a motion to approve the minutes, and Dr. Whitney Peake seconded. The minutes were approved with no change.

Dr. Indu Chhachhi explained that next Tuesday, Dr. Ron Rhoades will be receiving a national honor, the 2020 Frankel Fiduciary Prize. Dr. Chhachhi is proud of Dr. Rhoades and his accomplishments.

Dr. Mark Ross said that Meet the Firms was held virtually recently. It was well attended and successful in spite of having the event online. It was arranged through Handshake and Ms. Anna Meany was extremely helpful in coordinating the event.

Dr. Alex Lebedinsky mentioned an article in The Chronicle that examined declining enrollments in various colleges and universities. He commended WKU and GFCB in their increase in enrollment numbers.

The Student Advisory Council and The WKU Alumni Association met recently and Dr. Shook was able to attend their meetings. He said several students at these events expressed how pleased they are with their classes, course modality, faculty efforts, etc.

The dean sent an email to the Leadership Team, sharing his thoughts of On Demand courses. He asked for input from the chairs. Pros and cons of On Demand courses were considered in regard to student success, expense, faculty workload, enrollments, consistency, and quality of the courses. There are updated guidelines that are to be followed, and it was suggested that courses that are older be evaluated for compliance to the current guidelines.

The Faculty Handbook states that the department chairs are to evaluate full-time, non-tenured track faculty members once a year. Dr. Thrasher asked the chairs what their process for this was, and did it include any sort of continuation considerations. The instructors are completing the same report as tenure-track faculty. She asked if the reports were being used for professional development and address issues, such as collegiality. It was agreed that adding a line for reviewing continuation would be beneficial and also prompt a conversation between the dean and the departmental chairs.

Dr. Chhachhi mentioned that, for the first time, part-time faculty members are eligible to vote for Faculty Regent. Concerns about the dilution of the full-time faculty votes and the accuracy of the voter rolls were expressed. Possible responses were discussed.

Dr. Ross asked about getting approval for part-time faculty and how to move forward with course scheduling. He was encouraged to continue as has been done in the past.

Dr. Ray Blankenship asked about the staffing plans and our college's budget. Dr. Shook will follow up with the Provost's office as he has not heard any status updates.

The Leadership Team was asked if there was anything about which they felt the faculty and staff would appreciate communication. Dr. Shook mentioned the survey the faculty completed and is looking forward to the results.

Dr. Ross, followed by Dr. Shook, thanked Dr. Thrasher, once again, for her time and energy spent in arrangement of the classrooms. She said the faculty have been very helpful and flexible.

Dr. Shook asked the chairs to continue thinking of ways we can engage students and get them connected with each other. There is concern that students are facing a higher level of loneliness and self-isolation than usual.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am. The next GFAC meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2020 at 9:00 am via Zoom.