

Gordon Ford College of Business
Administrative Council Meeting
Via Zoom
Thursday, April 2, 2020
9:00 am

Members present: Drs. Ray Blankenship, Indu Chhachhi, Lukas Forbes, Bob Hatfield, Alex Lebedinsky, Mark Ross, Evelyn Thrasher, and Chris Shook, presiding.

Dr. Chris Shook asked for approval of the minutes from the March 26, 2020 meeting. Dr. Bob Hatfield made a motion to approve the minutes, and Dr. Alex Lebedinsky seconded. The minutes were approved with no change.

Dr. Shook asked the chairs to share good news going on in the departments.

- Dr. Blankenship shared that The Foundry has reached out to the Information Systems Department requesting computers. They will lend five computers for students to use. Mr. Jesse Willcut helped with re-imaging the computers, and they will be delivered soon.
- Dr. Forbes explained that he has several faculty members reporting students are not participating in courses. Ahmad Sims from ACDC is a resource in contacting students. Dr. Lynne Holland, Dean of Students, is another option. He also mentioned Mr. Chris Derry and Ms. Kendra Sewell working with the department's sales teams. The teams are partnering with local restaurants on a marketing project, #SaveOurRestaurants. Local television station WBKO covered the story.
- Dr. Chhachhi told about the Center for Financial Success also looking into ways they can benefit others.
- Dr. Hatfield reported the Management Department had another productive session with Dr. Marko Dumanic, with CITL. The faculty asked specific questions and Dr. Dumanic was able to address their issues.
- Dr. Shook revealed some initiatives that our college is looking into. The goal is finding a way to connect with our prospective students.

Dr. Shook provided a few updates from CAD (Council of Academic Deans):

- As things currently stand, there likely will be budgetary issues associated with the pandemic. WKU is being cautious with cash flow and expenses. WKU is not releasing past year's carry-forward for now until we know more about our future expenses/budget cuts. There are no conversations on reductions of personnel.
- There are two ongoing searches in the in our college: Management and Information Systems. As directed by the provost, Dr. Shook will submit an exception request in order to move forward with hiring these positions.
- Alumni and Philanthropy have developed an initiative to keep the community engaged. They are developing an 'Ask the Expert' series. GFAC members are asked to submit names and topics of anyone that wishes to be a part of this project.
- This year Philanthropy is replacing 'Day of Giving' with 'Day of Caring'. There are funds available to assist students during this time of uncertainty, but further clarity is needed. Dr. Shook will provide details later.
- Efforts are being made to make WKU's online learning and DELO fees more cost competitive. For GFCB, significant online course offerings in the fall may be a good

strategy. May term and bi-term classes should be considered for this option as well. Dr. Hatfield reminded GFAC members that the faculty may find the 'Course Copy' function in Blackboard to be helpful. Dr. Chhachhi suggested organizing a task force as a central depository of 'best practices' to help others in the college. Dr. Blankenship wondered if expanding the Plus 2 programs may also be beneficial. Dr. Shook urged GFAC members to think about peak efficiencies as we look to the fall.

Dr. Shook sent an email to untenured faculty about requesting extensions in their tenure clocks. He asked the Leadership Team to circle back with those faculty members to confirm the email was received.

Our students have been asking about cap and gowns and how to get them. Dr. Thrasher shared that WKU's commencement website states: Caps and Gowns will be available at The WKU Store beginning Monday, April 6th. They can be shipped to the student with a flat fee of \$5.

GFAC members discussed the P/D/F grading rubric. The university is still working through the details of how this policy will be carried out.

Ms. Monica Duvall is asking GFAC to consider internship credits for lower division courses (300 level) to allow students to receive internship credits at a lower level. Dr. Thrasher led the discussion with the department chairs, all sharing their thoughts on the issues/benefits of offering the earlier internship opportunity. She will research what others are doing, both at our university and other universities, and will report back to GFAC members.

Current internship statuses were reviewed as far as the impact on senior students. Dr. Thrasher will follow up with Ms. Duvall asking for additional information. It will be further reviewed at the next GFAC meeting.

Dr. Molly Kerby sent an email stating that we must still complete the Assurance of Learning objectives in order to maintain SACS accreditation. Dr. Thrasher will reach out to Dr. LeAnne Coder, our AOL chair, to attend our next GFAC meeting and clarify the requirements. The reports are due in September. There was a question of SACS flexibility. Dr. Thrasher will reach out to Dr. Kerby and Dr. Coder for more explanation.

Dr. Lebedinsky and Dr. Thrasher provided evaluations reviews for the BB&T Center for the Study of Capitalism, the Masters of Applied Economics Program, and the Honors Program Coordinator by email. They were briefly discussed during GFAC. The Leadership Team is asked to send feedback for all 3 evaluations and to consider any necessary updates to the Honors Program Coordinator role. We will consider those recommendations at the next meeting. Dr. Chhachhi will initiate the review of the Personal Financial Planning Program and the Center for Financial Success. Dr. Blankenship will initiate the review of the Center for Applied Data Analytics. Both will send their drafts to the Leadership Team by email and will discuss briefly at the next meeting. Dr. Thrasher shared their feedback with Ms. Monica Duvall and Ms. Adrienne Browning and will meet with Ms. Stacey Gish next.

GFAC members selected Eaton Student Leadership and Jefferson award winners.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am. The next GFAC meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2020 at 9:00 am via Zoom.