

**PRESIDENT'S CABINET MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, April 6, 2015
9 – 11 a.m.
President's Office –SSB 440A**

Present: Emily Davies, Ann Murphy, James Lyall, Luis Torres, Vicki Golich, Liz Hinde, Cathy Lucas, Sandra Haynes, Braelin Pantel, Percy Morehouse, George Middlemist, Myron Anderson, Carol Svendsen, Loretta Martinez, Eriks Humeyumtewa, Perla Gheiler, Ned Muhovich, Chris Randell, John Burtness, Nicole Tefft

Absent: Steve Kreidler

Substitutions: Christian Itin for Greg Watts, Deanne Pytlinski for Sheila Rucki, Metza Templeton, Cristian Solano-Cordova for Patricia Ordaz; Art Campa for Joan Foster

1. Approval of minutes from March 9, 2015

Approval of the minutes was moved and seconded. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. 50th Anniversary Celebration Update (P. Gheiler, M. Garza-Wicker)

The promotional website will be released on April 15 for internal use. The site will list events, fun facts, and where people can donate. Miguel Garza-Wicker provided a demonstration on the website; a welcome video is on the home page. There will be an events page that outlines the campus kick off and the countdown to the anniversary. There is a request form that can be filled out if there are events that should be listed on the site; the committee will decide which events will be listed.

There will be a section asking people to get involved by telling their story about MSU Denver and showcasing memorabilia; there will be a link to the official store. Brand Central will list how to add logos to materials. The 50th Anniversary materials will be used on July 1. Marketing and Communications has a retractable banner, napkins, and balloons for the 50th Anniversary.

June 1 will be the official kickoff for the public website. The Alumni office has been working on a video that will be posted to the web. The history committee has done 70 interviews with alumni.

There are five key objectives: 1) Celebrate the many accomplishments of MSU Denver over the past 50 years; 2) To build and enhance the university's base of support; 3) To strengthen the brand of MSU Denver by increasing the visibility and prominence of the university; 4) To build and foster engagement by encouraging active participation in anniversary activities; and 5) To set the stage for MSU Denver's next 50 years.

The Anniversary Celebration will kick off on the evening of July 3 in Civic Center Park, 4:00-8:00 p.m. Updates will continue through The Daily.

3. (9:30) Denim Day (N. Tefft, S. Berg)

Sarah Berg, Director of the Phoenix Center, reported that Denim Day has been recognized on campus since 2009. This year Denim Day is on Wednesday, April 29, the same day as the Faculty & Staff Appreciation Barbeque. This day is in recognition of a court case in Italy where a rapist was exonerated because the woman's jeans were too tight so she must have been a willing participant in taking them off. There will be buttons to wear as conversation starters and information tables at the Tivoli. It was the consensus of the Cabinet to support Denim Day. Sarah will give information on their plans to Cathy Lucas.

4. Advising Survey (S. Haynes, Chris Randell, and Ned Muhovich)

This is the last year of the Title III grant; efforts will be focused on advising to end the grant with good information. The auditors were impressed with the level of support for change and the collegial attitude that was evidenced at all levels; the care and concern for our students was noted. It was also noted that the students knew that advisors and faculty cared about them and their progress. The Student Success Building was listed as a great example of how committed we are to our students.

The areas of improvement included establishing a central idea of what advising is across the campus, as well as there are no learning outcomes to evaluate how we are doing. It is challenging for students to figure out who their advisor is and the auditors highlighted issues on the process of students trying to find a "home" on campus in departments. It is necessary to figure out what we are trying to accomplish and create the infrastructure we need to accomplish it.

Advisor training and development is a weakness as well as how we assess advising; some areas receive training while others do not. Advisor training should follow common knowledge, skills, and competencies that have been defined.

The third section of the report outlines practices that can be improved. Best practices in retaining students include making connections, getting students to an academic home, and making this process clear to the students. Competencies have to include cultural competencies.

Steps to move forward include a vision statement and working together across boundaries/units to make sure all the stakeholders are involved. There needs to be a professionalization of advising across campus so that it is a mission driven, highly specialized practice. There needs to be ongoing and comprehensive training for all advisors with recognition and rewards for outstanding advising.

The role of faculty in advising was discussed. Faculty who are good advisors should be given more time to advise; the view of advising should be expanded so all faculty can be involved. Different types of advising are not listed in the Handbook; an assessment of different types of advising should be done. It is important that faculty are invested in this plan.

There needs to be a shared vision; the existing advisory councils will be meeting to work on identifying a vision and mission. The vision needs to be broader than what we do now. It was suggested that the team separate the recommendations that have been completed and those that have not been addressed. A memo outlining the completed recommendations should be sent to the President and Provost.

Sandra Haynes, Ned Muhovich, and Chris Randell will bring back the information on the vision in the Fall semester.

5. May Day Serving Shift Sign –Up (Sanders)

There will be two shifts for serving at the Faculty and Staff Appreciation Barbeque. A signup sheet was passed around for members to sign up for the time they would like to volunteer to serve.

6. Regular Occurring Updates

A. President update (Dr. Jordan)

The Senate has passed the long appropriation bill and it is now in the House; there has been no discussion on funding sources. Currently, there will be a 14.8% general fund increase and the authority to set our tuition increase to up to 6%. The AES building is included in the capital appropriation and is proceeding forward in the House. Joan McDermott has left the university and started her new position. Dr. Anthony Grant, the sole applicant for the Athletic Director position, is being brought to campus April 13-15.

Breanna Hemming was named Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference track athlete of the week; she is considering trying out for the Olympics. Mitch McCarron was selected as the NCAA Division II player of the year. He was also selected to be the recipient of the Academic All-America, RMAC academic player of the year.

Next Tuesday, April 14, is the Board of Trustees meeting; it will be a one day meeting not going past 1:30 p.m.

The Governor is hosting an event at the Governor’s Mansion on April 22 and has extended invitations to 180 CEO’s, officers of AES, and key development leaders for a reception where he will ask for the \$20 million for the AES building. This is the first time that a state governor has put together an event for a project like this for a state institution.

B. Theme I – Student and Academic Success

i. Education Quality(Golich)

1. HSI Update (Torres)

Senator Alexander has put together three white papers on a reauthorization bill that will be due by the end of August. Some elements of the bill are in respect to retention and graduation and reinforce how critical this conversation is for improvement at MSU Denver. Working on retention and graduation rates will be important. Student loans will also be a focus; it has been suggested that institutions be held liable for 10% of the default of any students.

Luis and Esther Rodriguez are leading the task force and have recommended the membership to the President and Provost. An effort will be made to be more intentional in recruiting from community colleges and the adult student population

including military veterans. The membership of the task force will be announced soon.

The policy brief from Excelencia in Education, Excelencia-- Helping or Hindering? State Policies & Latino College Completion, will be presented at the next meeting; it went out last week to their national distribution list and includes the policies that are assisting with Latino education. This brief will be sent out to the Cabinet prior to the next meeting.

A high school in Sydney, Nebraska, will be bringing a group of high school students to campus through Journey through our Heritage. After a campus tour, they will be going to the Colorado History Museum.

2. **IT Strategic Plan** (Lyll)

C. Theme II – Urban Land Grant University

i. MSU Denver Neighborhood update (Middlemist) –

The Athletic Complex is open; April 11 is Teal Day in support of the fight against ovarian cancer. The ribbon cutting for the complex is May 6.

D. Theme III – University Culture

i. Campus Climate (Anderson)

A stratified random survey was sent out to the staff. If you received the survey, please complete as soon as possible; your input is valued.

There is a Higher Education Diversity Summit on Friday, April 10. Professor Wilton Fleming is planning a group visit to Southern University to find out about their STEM program, and if it will be possible to replicate their strategies for students of color at MSU Denver.

E. Theme IV – University Resources

i. Budget Update (Middlemist)

The budget will be introduced to the Board at the May meeting; there will be a final decision on the tuition rates by that time. The Budget Task Force is meeting with groups and getting feedback. The budget will be sent to President Jordan on Friday, April 10.

The compensation committee is meeting one more time before submitting their recommendation; if there are increases, the committee is recommending waiting until October for administrator and faculty pay increases. The budget is premised on a 3% enrollment decline, which is about \$3 million in revenue.

ii. Capital Campaign

F. Telling the MSU Denver Story

i. Strategic Communications and Branding (Lucas)

The Commencement Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with commencement. The platform parties will need to attend both ceremonies.

7. Updates from Cabinet Members

Carol Svendsen – There are 15-20 ASCENT students who are COF eligible with no remedial needs. There are 12-24 concurrent enrollment students from community colleges; 55% are minority students.

Metza Templeton (for Catherine Reddy) – Elections for the coming year are soon. The annual spring picnic will be at the end of June.

George Middlemist – The athletic fields, HLC, and AES building have been presented to the Enterprise Zone Commission; any donor will be able to get a 25% tax credit.

Cristian Solano-Cordova (for Patricia Ordaz) – There are ten candidates for the SGA elections; campaign week ends April 10 and the following week is election week. There will be an election event at the Robert Brown Lounge in the Tivoli where gifts will be given to students who vote online.

Cabinet adjourned at 11:14 a.m.