



President's Cabinet Minutes

October 9, 2019

9-10:30am

Attendees

- Dr. Janine Davidson, president
- Michael Benitez, vice president, Diversity and Inclusion
- Andrew Bonham, chair, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Cathy Lucas, chief of staff and vice president of Strategy
- Christine Márquez-Hudson, vice president and executive director, University Advancement and MSU Denver Foundation
- Arlene Sgoutas, dean, College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
- Danielle Holmes, president, Student Government Assembly
- Katia Campbell, president, Faculty Senate
- Vicki Golich, provost and executive vice president of Academic Affairs
- Stacy Dvergsdal, associate vice president, Human Resources
- Rebecca Reid, president, Council of Administrators
- Will Simpkins, vice president, Student Affairs
- Anthony Grant, director, Athletics
- Kevin Taylor, chief information officer and associate vice president for Information Technology Services

I. Approval of September 4, 2019 Minutes

II. President's Update- Dr. Janine Davidson

- A. Cabinet meeting time change
- B. Flu shots
- C. Welcome to Michael Benitez, vice president, Diversity and Inclusion, Rebecca Reid, president, Staff Senate and Andrew Bonham, chair, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

III. President's Advisory Council- Academic Excellence and Student Success

- A. Matt Forcella, academic advisor, and Sean Petranovich, lead data scientist, Business Intelligence
 1. The presenters discussed the council's function as a pulse of the faculty on campus and how they're getting input through surveys and focus

groups. A survey about department retention in May garnered response from about 400 faculty members and demonstrated a knowledge gap and understanding of where MSU Denver is as an institution. The aim is for faculty to promote retention and understand their role.

2. Studied Georgia State University's focus group areas, which included general foundational skills for students, first-year seminars, moving from lecture-based to computer-based learning, predictive analytics on high-risk students, resources like a tutoring center and financial aid, and overall financial aspects.
3. Our stopout survey showed the primary reason was financial hardship, with 66%. Of those, 61% said they were taking a break and planning on coming back. 60% said work/life balance was too hard.
4. Faculty focus groups have also covered advising in general, the desire to have more advisors, tenure track, and training/support. Culturally relevant advising is another area to look into.
5. The Student Success committee is up and running and looking into all of these things. Will Simpkins stressed the importance of more training and expectations around all faculty knowing about advising to make sure students are on the right path. Vicki Golich asked about strategies for embedding the knowledge from trainings.
6. Next steps: Get groups together and determine directions for each. Focus on three areas that would have a cascading effect on academic preparedness, financial support and undeclared/advising.

IV. Policy Updates

A. Nick Stancil, Deputy General Counsel

1. Discussed two policies around Political Activity and Lobbying and the need for guidance about getting involved in politics on their own time. Key takeaway is that advocacy is encouraged but it needs to be clear on when and how. Kyra Degruy and Nick Stancil can help handle one-off situations.
2. The organic enabling policy (UPAC driven) is an analysis on how staff members participate in the government process and states it's important to seek direction from the board. This policy outlines the opportunity to separate groups in the future. Next step is cabinet to vote on this policy.

V. Staff Senate Updates- Introduction of new members, University Staff Governance Policy

A. Rebecca Reid, president, Staff Senate

1. Next steps: Filling senator vacancies and then look at aligning with the university priorities next.

VI. Round Robin

- A. This portion included an around-the-table update from the President's Cabinet members and other attendees. Highlights include: Cathy Lucas provided an update on the Strategic Plan and brand. An action item for the next meeting is to look at the four preferred future statements created at the Vision Conference (concept papers can be found on website). Christine Márquez-Hudson gave a debriefing on Homecoming and announced the dates for next year: Sept. 28-Oct. 3, 2020. Danielle Holmes provided an update on goals regarding housing and food insecurities. Will Simpkins noted that spring 2020 applications are down but admissions are up, updated on Classroom to Career Hub development and highlighted the CARE center for students. Anthony Grant provided a general athletics update. Kevin Taylor announced the launch of a cybersecurity awareness campaign to focus on securing devices, securing data and securing yourself.