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Meeting Minutes

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MINUTES COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS December 17, 1996 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Jacqueline Addington, Michael Binder, Barbara Burch, Elmer Gray, Martin Houston, Luther Hughes, David Lee, Carl Martray, Phillip Myers, John Petersen and Paul Rice Guests: Frank Conley, Tony Glisson, Jim Cummings, Tom Harmon, Barry Woosley, Sam Evans, and Deborah Wilkins

1. Minutes of the December 3, 1996, meeting were distributed.

2. Dr. Burch opened the meeting with announcements, including:

- A new staff performance appraisal system is being developed.
- The Deans should notify Dr. Burch of Christmas break plans.
- President Meredith has scheduled a retreat for January 9.
- Dr. Burch requested that the deans be careful regarding policies and procedures for degree completion adjustments.

3. International Education Task Force

Dr. Burch will appoint a task force to address the priority and strategy for international education at Western, particularly how it would fit in a comprehensive university plan. Dr. Petersen will circulate the names of current Global Perspectives committee members to the Deans. The Deans will suggest additional names to Dr. Petersen. Dr. Burch will then appoint the task force and give it a charge to report back in about a month.

4. University Salary Policy

Dr. Burch solicited opinions of the Deans on whether annual merit salary increments should be based on percentages or whole dollar amounts. This issue will be discussed again after Christmas.

5. Employee versus Independent Contractor Status

Drs. Conley and Evans, Mr. Glisson, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Woosley and Ms. Wilkins joined the meeting to discuss the criteria and procedure for classifying individuals as employees or independent contractors. Dr. Phil Myers and some of the deans gave examples of problems that have arisen in their areas regarding this issue. After extended discussion, Dr. Burch made the point that the University should both be in compliance with the law and be supportive of expanded grant activity by faculty (where this issue is a particular problem). She asked Dr. Myers to again work with the staff in Accounts and Fiscal Services to find a solution that meets these two objectives.

6. Affirmative Action Procedures

Dr. Dan Myers presented the deans with a draft report from the Affirmative Action Faculty Focus Group which recommends modified procedures for new faculty hires. The deans are to review the draft and provide any comments by early January.

7. University College - Freshman Seminar

Dr. Addington announced that the training seminar on academic advising, featuring John Gardner, will be rescheduled for January 24-25 and will include a general session for all faculty on Friday, January 24.

The meeting was adjourned at II:30 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

John H. Petersen