

MU TABOR SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

DEAN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL

Notes from Zoom meeting on May 18, 2020 at 2:00 PM central time.

DBC members: Tony Douglass, Sheri Eichelberger, Trevor May, Zane Peterson, Jamie Rockhold, Bob Smith, Kevin Stocks, Bob Swartz, Dave Weatherford

Tabor faculty/staff: Najiba Benabess, Becky Stubblefield, Elizabeth Wolpert

- Presentation – Najiba Benabess (file attached)
 - Dean Benabess presented updates from Tabor and Millikin. These notes will supplement the information contained in the slides.
- The DBC welcomed new member Tony Douglass, and new Tabor staff member, Elizabeth Wolpert (Assistant to the Dean for Enrollment Management).
- Slide 7 discussion:
 - The number of total graduates is a relatively small percentage of total enrollment. This is likely due to the fact that 4 years ago we had a large, but somewhat unprepared freshman class. The freshman-to-sophomore retention rate that year was lower than usual, resulting in a substantially smaller graduating class now.
 - No OL students graduated in May because the current cohort model produces a December graduation.
 - Dean Benabess told the DBC about the newly-approved, revamped OL program, which removes the cohort model and allows incoming OL students to get into the program courses immediately. It will remove many barriers for these students.
- Slide 9 discussion:
 - President White announced last week that our goal is to start the fall semester in person, on September 8, 2020. This initiative could include changing housing options, changing class size limits, and finding ways to implement social distancing whenever possible.

- Faculty are being encouraged to make contingency plans for any other possible modes of instruction, so we can pivot easier if needed.
 - The university, and incoming president, will be evaluating all of the academic programs at Millikin to determine if resources should continue to be allocated for those programs. This will be a difficult process, but it is necessary.
- Slide 10 discussion:
- Elizabeth may be reaching out to DBC members to get them involved with recruiting efforts.
 - Next Tabor Times issue got delayed in Marketing because of the pivot to online events, graduation, etc. It's coming!
 - Najiba asked DBC members to talk with their employers/networks to find out what they are doing with internships given the pandemic restrictions.
 - Becky will connect Bob Swartz & Jamie with Travis Bodden, our new Internship Coordinator.
- Slide 12 discussion:
- Tony asked what success looks like for us? How will we know when we've achieved this goal?
 - Najiba noted that retention rates and job placement rates are two quantifiable measurements that we could use to define success.
 - Initiatives mentioned by the dean and DBC members included:
 - Continuing to strengthen performance learning opportunities
 - Alumni success stories – alumni as advocates for Tabor
 - Include in course work an assignment to shadow an alum for a period of time, with specific deliverables developed from that time, evaluated by a professor or the alum
 - Look at the market demand for jobs to determine programs to deliver, method of delivery
 - Strengthen partnerships with community colleges
 - DBC members collaborate with each other to leverage alumni connections; work as one unit instead of separate teams?
 - Action items for Najiba:
 - What makes sense to move forward on?
 - What does Najiba need from DBC?
 - How do we turn this discussion into action?
- **Next call: Zoom meeting on Monday, June 8, 2020, 2:00 PM CST.**