

# MU TABOR SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

## DEAN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL

Notes from Zoom meeting on September 14, 2020 at 2:00 PM central time.

DBC members present: Dena Arendt, Wayne Dunning, Louis Javois, Amber Kaylor, Jamie Rockhold, Bob Smith, Kevin Stocks, Bob Swartz, David Weatherford, Craig Witt, Deb Youssef

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

Absent: Tony Douglass, Sheri Eichelberger, Trevor May, Zane Peterson

### ➤ Welcome – Najiba Benabess

- Najiba welcomed new members to the DBC; all members introduced themselves for the new members.
- Approximately 20 positive cases of COVID on campus; 90 students have been placed in quarantine due to contact tracing.
- Faculty are doing a great job adapting on a daily basis for their students who may need remote learning at various times or throughout the term.
- Faculty are collaborating with each other more than ever to help each other learn new technologies and ways of teaching.
- Faculty have been creative in finding ways to incorporate Performance Learning (hands-on) in these new circumstances.
- Re-imagine Tabor project is moving forward!

### ➤ Enrollment numbers – Elizabeth Wolpert

- Dave Weatherford asked how Tabor and Millikin are feeling about the enrollment numbers this year.
  - Najiba noted that enrollment numbers are down across the university, and at most other colleges. At Tabor, over 50% of our students are also athletes and the uncertainty of the athletic seasons may have impacted our enrollment. International student travel restrictions also impacted this.

- Najiba and Elizabeth are working on ways to recruit in a virtual environment, and doing more specific outreach to high school business teachers in Illinois and community college business teachers and advisors.
  - Louis Javois asked if students in the Business Management major tend to stay there. Najiba and Becky noted that many students generally stay in Business Management, but if they leave, they usually go somewhere else within Tabor.
  - Deb Youssef noted that using the alumni network to recruit often helps with those efforts.
  - Louis asked why student-athletes weren't coming; Elizabeth noted that many were attending community college this year to save money, or received an athletic scholarship, which MU doesn't offer. Wayne Dunning was a student-athlete and he understands that they really want to play. Wayne also noted that parents are making these decisions for financial reasons. He serves on the BOT at Richland Community College, and he noted that their enrollment stayed about the same.
  - Najiba concluded the meeting by explaining that we meet students' needs wherever they are. If students are interested in starting in a community college then transferring to Tabor, we can help the student while attending community college with academic advising and career mentoring. We already have a close relationship and partnership with Richland Community College and we are happy to collaborate with any community college our prospective students are planning to attend first. Our ultimate goal is to educate and empower our students and see them achieve their full potential.
- The next DBC meeting would normally be the fall on-campus meeting. However, COVID guidelines restrict us from bringing external groups to campus. Therefore, we will likely do something similar to the spring meeting, where we held a 2-hour Zoom call to discuss important topics. Becky will send out a survey with various days & times to determine the best schedule for this meeting.

**Next call: To be determined...**