Minutes of January 7, 2015 Faculty Council Meeting


Absent:  A. Lutzker, T. Williams

Meeting began at 2:35 pm

1. Agenda was approved as presented.

Minutes from November 19, 2014 meeting will be circulated and presented for approval at next meeting

2. CAC/BSP report:  C. Pearson reported that the December meeting with the Chancellor was a luncheon meeting in which input received from the Strategic Planning Town Hall meetings was presented.
   AAAC:  T. Wrobel reported that a new approval process for undergraduate programs was discussed. The process by which UM Honorary Degree nominations was described and it was proposed and agreed to that AAAC would accept responsibility for soliciting and processing these nominations including sending them to UM-AA.

3. Meeting with President Schlissel. Some disappointment was expressed at the minimal time to characterize the nature and outstanding achievements of UM-Flint students during the Faculty Council’s meeting with the President. It was felt that the issue of collaborations with UM-AA was covered. There was discussion about the President’s statement about UM-Flint faculty governance as having too many faculty committees.

4. Interim Provost. Lois mentioned that an announcement of the Interim provost would be made this week and that the person would begin on January 15, 2015.

5. Faculty standing committees: It was agreed that Faculty Council would initiate a review of existing UM-Flint Governing Faculty Committees to assess the following:
   a. Do current charges reflect current reality; e.g. is the charge consistent with the current focus of the committee? Does the charge need to be updated by deleting, adding, or otherwise editing the language?
   b. Do the committees address issues beyond the charge as outlined in the Faculty Code
   c. Are there issues that are included in the CODE charge that the committee no longer addresses?
   d. How effectively does the committee function?
   e. How frequently does committee meet?
   f. Duration of committee meetings?
   g. Identified obstacles in carrying out charge

   There was a discussion about who should receive the questions. Committee chairs? Committee Members? Administrators who are ex-officio on committees?
Other issues relating to Governance: are the units appropriately represented by the allocated number of seats/unit?
Clarification on the definition of a “governing faculty member.” Should this be a standardized definition, or vary by unit?

6. Title IX Workshop. B. Manning from HR will be leading the meeting.

7. Administrator surveys. Policy describing the survey process, and the survey should go out in February. The Chancellor and the Provost will not be surveyed. All Deans should be surveyed except for SHPS Interim Dean given recent appointment. Associate Provost Lotfi will be surveyed. Perhaps VC Sekelsky should be surveyed. Alexander will check. Administrators will review the instrument prior to its distribution.

8. CESF charge. H. Seipke sent a response to Faculty Council indicating that the information sought would be difficult to obtain; e.g. exit interviews. It was decided to ask B. Manning to summarize this data as she has access to it, and, according to H. Wehbe-Alamah is already collecting this information from women faculty for the Women’s Commission that has been created.

9. No matters arising

10. Next Faculty Council meeting will be January 21st. An invitation will be extended to the Interim Provost.