Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2014


Guests:  Beth Manning and David Betts

L. Alexander called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm

1. The September 24, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as written and the agenda was accepted as presented.

2. CAC/BSP report was made by C. Pearson.  G. Tewksbury gave an overview of the aggregate UM-Flint budget, not looking at unit-specific budgets. He stated that there were carry forward dollars for each unit, and that the internal affairs of the academic units were not within his purview.

2. T. Wrobel reported that AAAC discussed a statement on Curriculog, issues related to the Faculty Code. The Provost indicated that he would be soliciting volunteers to serve on the search committees for SHPS and CAS Dean.

3. Faculty Council was unclear as to why their input was being sought on Curriculog.  Concern was expressed about software duplication, recognizing that Faculty Council lacks the expertise to evaluate the capacity of current software programs. Questions regarding compatibility and redundancy with existing systems were raised. S. Selig was charged with communicating these questions/concerns to V. Lotfi as he has responsibility for this area.

4. Beth Manning and David Betts joined the meeting at approximately 3:00 pm. Many issues and questions were discussed relative to due process for individuals who are accused of wrongdoing. It was stated that if discrimination is the complaint then the issue is brought to Human Resources. The process should take no more than 60 days to investigate and adjudicate. D. Betts referred to the SPG 201.89 and 201.89.1 as the foundational processes and policies followed by the Office of Institutional Equity. Members of Faculty Council expressed strong concern about the perception of the lack of due process that has been followed regarding several personnel matters, resulting in individual departures from the University. Beth Manning will provide some clarification on process to Faculty Council as a follow up to the meeting.

5. The date/time for the Fall Governing Faculty was discussed. Faculty Council felt that it was important to work around the Chancellor’s schedule so that she could be present.

6. Faculty Code’s definition of “governing faculty” was discussed. It was agreed that the definition of “governing faculty” should be left up to the individual academic unit; however, such lists should be provided to the Provost’s office. A proposal will be presented to the Governing Faculty that the Faculty Council should accept the responsibility of interpreting the Faculty Code should the language be ambiguous.
7. In response to a request by the Provost, H. Wehbe-Alamah and S. Selig agreed that their names be provided to the Provost to serve as Faculty Council representatives on the SHPS Dean’s search committee. It was agreed that 4 names be provided to the Provost for the Faculty Council representative for the CAS search committee (T. Wrobel, A. Lutzker, L. Alexander, and C. Pearson).

8. Matters arising. It was agreed that L. Alexander would request that a budget be provided to the Faculty Council for Faculty Development activities.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:20 pm.