Faculty Council Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2014  
2:30-4:00pm, Lapeer Room  


1. The meeting was called to order at 2:30pm. Minutes of the October 29, 2014 meeting were approved.  

2. T. Wrobel was not able to attend the last AAAC meeting because he was at an honorary degrees meeting on Ann Arbor’s campus. C. Pearson reported that CAC/BSP reviewed the proposed MA degree program in Applied Communications and discussed the Chancellor’s town hall meetings that took place on November 10th and 14th. CAC/BSP will review the data that came from those meetings. Increasing enrollment via student retention and enhancing the quality of academic programs were among the priorities that emerged. The CAC/BSP did not have time to address the budget.  

3. A topic for the next informal lunch with Chancellor Borrego will be the protocol for invitations to administrators (presenting information at faculty meetings).  

4. Concern about CAS ad SHPS deans’ search committees. The past practice is for senior faculty to serve as chairs of dean and provost search committees. The announced search committee structure is unprecedented at UMF (deans as chairs of search committees for deans). While this might be the practice on the Ann Arbor campus, it has not been the practice for Flint. Questions arose about faculty not notified that the practice would be different this time. Is the faculty’s voice being diminished (i.e., Chancellor’s Senior Leadership Team does not have a senior faculty member)? Members of Faculty Council emphasized that these are searches for academic offices. Other concerns were raised about the composition of the deans’ search committees (possible imbalance). Another concern was raised about whether or not it would be possible to complete searches for SHPS and CAS deans and a provost by the beginning of the next academic year. Yet another concern is that it might not be wise to hire two deans in the absence of a provost. Would it be wiser to have a provost in place before two new deans are selected? It seems reasonable to assume that deans would want to meet the person to whom they would report directly before accepting offers of employment. L. Alexander charged with expressing Faculty Council’s concerns to Provost in 4:00pm meeting on November 19 and reporting back to Faculty Council.  

5. Chancellor Borrego addressed each item of the informal agenda for the November 10th Faculty Council lunch meeting.  

6. L. Alexander reported that dates for the Title IX Workshop and Workshop on SGP 201.96 were still uncertain. B. Manning said that she would provide possible dates to
Alexander by November 19. Alexander will communicate with Faculty Council on what might be feasible, given that there are only a few weeks left in Fall semester.

7. Faculty Council endorsed the report of the Technology Committee regarding Curriculog. Alexander will send report to Provost Voland and request that he clarify the status and purview of the Technology Fee Committee. It appears that its purview is not appropriately understood.

8. Matters arising: A. Lutzker asked why academic programs are late in arriving for consideration by CAC/BSP and AAAC. Perhaps the flow chart is not being followed appropriately. Alexander will speak to Provost about a flow chart that explains the process from unit to the Presidents’ Council. The process needs to be widely distributed and followed.

T. Wrobel briefed Faculty Council on the honorary degree process; he also will communicate with AAAC about it.

Lutzker reported that procedures being developed by the Curriculum Coordination Committee will be sent to Faculty Council for comment and approval.

Alexander mentioned that MTA implementation by SOM was a work in progress according to the SOM Curriculum Committee chair – it might be that SOM adds Eng 112 and perhaps a math course as fulfillment of general education requirements. A. Dorfman noted that programs in SEHS will adjust requirements (i.e., Social Work’s implementation of the MTA will include requiring Eng 112). Some confusion existed in CAS regarding the MTA. Dean Albert Price called for a vote on the MTA without allowing faculty to speak about a motion related to MTA implementation.

Alexander reported that Alan Grafe is not eligible to serve as a representative to the UM Senate Assembly because he is a Lecturer. A special election will be held to fill the vacancy for Winter 2015-Winter 2017 once a candidate or candidates are identified. The Nomination Committee is aware of the vacancy.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Lois Alexander