AAAC Report for academic year 2014-15

Meetings scheduled on second and fourth weeks as required and sensitive to the Provost’s schedule. Below follows highlights of the 2014-15 academic year.

September:
1) A new academic calendar was drafted and approved, including a short break in the fall semester.
2) Discussion, commentary, and consensus approval of a new software package, Curriculog, for the Registrar. Questions and suggestions on how such large expenditures ($40K) might be handled in the future.
3) Faculty Code charge discussed, noting discrepancies in the language concerning AAAC and the Provost responsibilities.
4) The process described in SPG 601.02 for the Discontinuance of Academic Programs was discussed and the committee requested of the Provost a communication to the unit Deans for a strong commitment to the process and assurances it is being followed.

October:
1) Discussion and goals concerning budget model and its effects on academic affairs. Committee hears presentation by Adam Lutzker on the many budget issues and potential remedies. The hope is to foster a discussion with budget director Tewksbury and other administrative leaders.
2) Discussion of recent Title IX complaints and an apparent lack of due process.
3) Further discussion on software decisions and questions on the appropriate body or group to weigh in on these matters in the future.

November:
1) Discussion of programs and program growth at UM-F provided several distinct outcomes. Questions regarding the number and effective management/oversight on new programs led the committee to surmise more programs are not necessarily good unless a system of checks and balances are in place to ensure academic rigor, effectiveness, and quality of programs. Discussion led to illuminating problems with a current backlog in program review (particularly in CAS) and a need to address the underlying problems and their impact on Academic Affairs. It was suggested to invite Associate Provost Chris Waters (also Dean of Undergraduate Studies) to AAAC to explore this important topic.
2) The newly formed Curriculum Committee reported its first meeting and a discussion ensued to help establish the responsibility and duties of the committee. A charge for the committee is to be formed.
3) A discussion on the proposed MA in Communication produced several questions for the Graduate Program and the Communication faculty. Subsequent answers led the committee to relay one required of the program to gain acceptance by AAAC.
4) Discussion of the recently approved Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) produced a consensus that the process was hurried and there was hope that some
latitude was still possible within the courses to be used to satisfy the required, large transfer course block.

5) Approval consensus on a new BBA in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management. It was noted the proposal came very last minute and was (luckily) a fairly simple new program to consider.

6) AAAC agreed to review all future recommendations for honorary degrees.

December:
No meetings were scheduled for December

January:
1) Committee worked on revising AAAC’s description and charge in the Faculty Code.
2) Committee met and discussed numerous issues and ideas with Interim Provost Barbara Dixon.
3) AAAC and Faculty Council help to coordinate nominees for the new Provost search.

February:
1) Discussion of space needs by departments and the process by which space is planned and/or allocated. A consensus was arrived at to further discuss the problems/remedies with a special emphasis on course scheduling (MWF?) as a means to alleviate demand for classroom or other academic space.
2) DEEP and other K-12 enrollment models and agreements were discussed with a desire to further analyze and evaluate these programs, especially their cost effectiveness regarding tuition and related faculty costs. The need for a more strategic and period review was agreed upon by consensus.
3) The Curriculum Committee put out a call for reports of course duplication.
4) Associate Provost Waters gave a long and detailed report on the status of undergraduate program review. A consensus agreement to work on revising the process was arrived and a plan to spend a few meetings on the matter was also agreed upon.

March:
1) Discussion on space allocation and the process by which some decisions are made identified a list constructed by Facilities was a working document of all projects either being planned, implemented, or finished. The committee expressed a possible desire to be included in the list’s dissemination as a means to be better informed on transactions involving space on the UM-F campus.
2) Multiple changes to the Faculty Code were drafted for submission for the governing faculty vote on Faculty Code revision.
3) Discussion of proposed revisions to the undergraduate program review process resolved an attempt to be made, with Dr. Alfaro writing a draft proposal.
4) A discussion on FYE credits not being fully transferrable involved multiple perspectives and possible remedies, although no consensus was reached.
April:
1) Discussion of proposed revisions to the undergraduate program review process turned to a discussion on the merits of an external program review. A consensus to explore this idea was arrived at and future discussion and investigation was planned.