Faculty Council Meeting Minutes: November 18, 2015

Absent: A. Dorfman

The meeting began at 2:30pm

The minutes for the Oct. 28th meeting were approved as corrected.

The AAAC and CAC/BSP updates were given by their representatives to Faculty Council. G. Laurence stated that the current business of AAAC is to improve the low response rate for the online course evaluations.

M. Farmer stated that CAS/BSP discussed the budget at their last meeting. Greg Tewksbury, the Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, gave an overview of the university’s budget. The College of Arts and Science has a million dollar shortfall in earned revenue compared to projected revenue. Fifteen million dollars has been budgeted for renovation of the newly acquired building from First Merit Bank. There is approximately 10,000 square feet per floor of available space, with 4,000 square feet of that available for classrooms. The university’s budget cycle is changing. The budget process will begin in October. Town hall meetings will be held to talk about the budget and priorities, and to show the steps required to finalize the budget for the July 1st start of the fiscal year. Concern was expressed regarding declining enrollment. The provost presented a list of academic objectives to the committee, which included: turning around enrollment declines, making UM-Flint known for “key programs” to attract top students as a university of first choice, and to attract senior faculty of national and international renown for these programs. It was pointed out that aggregate marketing costs for the university are approximately $3 million, with each school having its own marketing person. Central administration is focusing on centralizing marketing efforts, in order to make marketing more efficient and unify the marketing message for the entire university. At the last CAC/BSP meeting, the chancellor stated to CAC/BSP that she has made it clear to the Nursing faculty that she is not going forward with the School of Nursing proposal, as it would not be approved by Ann Arbor. The chancellor expressed confusion as to why the School of Nursing proposal came up at the November 12th university governing faculty meeting.

The November 12th university governing faculty meeting was discussed. T. Wrobel asked if faculty have representatives on student committees. C. Douglas will contact S. Fabbro for a list of meeting times of faculty committees that can be sent to the president of Student Government so a student representative can attend those meetings. The vice chancellors can be invited back for the Winter governing faculty meeting to report on their activities after they have been on the job for a longer period of time. It was suggested that the new vice chancellors be invited, on a one-on-one basis, to future Faculty Council meetings to learn about the campus and faculty, and discuss the activities the vice chancellors are involved in. There will be two university governing faculty meetings in the Winter semester. The first meeting will be to discuss the recommendations from AAAC for improving the response rates of the online course evaluations. The second meeting will be to get reports from the other university governing faculty standing committees and to invite the vice chancellors back for more discussion with the faculty.

Faculty Council will discuss the AAAC recommendations improving the online course evaluation response rate at the next Faculty Council meeting.
There is a request that UM-Flint send a representative to the UM-Ann Arbor Honorary Degree Committee. Two names were suggested: C. Pearson and A. Dorfman. C. Pearson had previously served as a committee member. Now that he an administrator it was suggested that A. Dorfman take his place on the committee since she already lives in Ann Arbor. However, the timing of the meeting conflicts with prior commitments for her, so S. Selig will ask C. Pearson to continue to serve. T. Wrobel will serve if C. Pearson is unable to serve.

S. Selig communicated to the provost a concern from Faculty Council regarding the lack of faculty on administrator search committees. The provost suggested Faculty Council propose a rule that stipulates the number of faculty representatives on administrator search committees. Since membership on administrator search committees are the chancellor’s privilege to establish, Faculty Council cannot propose a strict rule regarding this. However, Faculty Council can propose a recommendation. S. Selig suggested that Faculty recommend that the majority of a search committee be comprised of faculty with at least one representative from each academic unit. G. Laurence will take this recommendation to AAAC and present it to the provost.

The selection process for the 2016 Weingarten professor was discussed. Guidelines for the Weingarten professorship call for a faculty committee to be formed to solicit and review nominations. In 2015, no faculty committee was formed. Instead, AAAC reviewed the one nomination that was submitted. Faculty Council would like to communicate to the provost that if AAAC would serve as the Weingarten selection committee the future, advance notice be given to the university community so faculty can provide input regarding the nominees and selection.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.