UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

AAAC
Academic Affairs Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 7, 2016
1:00 p.m. – Lapeer Room

~ Minutes ~

Members Present: Darryl Baird, Blair Davis, Chris Douglas, Aviva Dorfman, Jan Furman (Chair), Doug Knerr, Greg Laurence, Jie Song, and Rie Suzuki

Tour of Merit Building ► Prior to the business meeting, Vice Chancellor Greg Tewksbury provided a tour of the First Merit Bank Building that the University has acquired. Following the tour, the Committee convened for the remainder of their meeting in the Lapeer Room.

Jan called the business portion of the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. She welcomed Jie and Rie who are replacing Ricardo Alfaro and Connie Creech, respectively, while they are on sabbaticals.

Approval of Minutes – December 17, 2015 ► The Minutes of December 17 were approved as written.

Report from the Provost ► Doug indicated that following the conclusion of AAAC’s review of the HLC Assumed Practices document, he will provide a debrief of categories that were deemed needing attention and will be sharing that with Tom Wrobel. Tom is currently reviewing current policies and practices and the goal is to assess any gaps that may pose risk. The idea is to engage in due diligence in preparation for our next accreditation. Doug indicated that the deans are reviewing the Practices as well.

Doug disseminated the draft of the Academic Strategic Plan Proposal which outlines the proposed mission of Academic Affairs. Doug emphasized that we need to be thinking about everything that relates and/or is in line with instruction of our students in terms of fiscal stability, mission to action, and institutional coherence. He stressed that we need to make sure that what we say we are doing, we are behaving in that way so nothing comes to question.

Doug indicated that he has been working closely with Vice Chancellor Barbara Avery to make sure that there is a conduit between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs to ensure that there is a coherent point of view that can be identified in the marketplace.

Doug indicated that he has supported the formation of the School of Nursing and recommended that to the Chancellor. Prior to firming up the recommendation, the Chancellor wants to initiate a
community task force to gather feedback from the health constituents. That initiative is taking place this month and plans are for that process to conclude by the end of the semester.

Doug announced that a couple new technology initiatives are being rolled out in the near future:

- **Degree Works** – a system for students to see their instructional pathways. He indicated that this system will also aid advisors and will be an additional tool for retention. Training will take place yet this semester.

- **EAB (Educational Advisory Board) Student Success Collaborative** – in concert with Ann Arbor and Dearborn, it is a system for data analysis that is tied with Banner. The capabilities of drilling deep for data analyses will be huge and major systems such as the University of Texas employ this same program. He said that it may also shape student behavior in taking advising more seriously and it will show us areas of duplication and many other analyses about our programs. Members questioned the ability of knowing how to use the system; Doug indicated that all kinds of templates will be available and that eventually we will be able to think more intentionally and in a sophisticated manner in terms of strategies and what kind of data that we want, i.e. what data set, what managerial set, etc. He explained that the idea and knowledge of accessing all kinds of data will take time but eventually it will become a part of our culture, just as assessment did.

**Report from the Faculty Council**

Chris reported that in AAAC’s November Meeting, Faculty Council sent a request to AAAC to craft a recommendation suitable to submit to the Provost and Chancellor in terms of faculty participation on search committees. At that time, AAAC replied to Faculty Council asking for clarification. Faculty Council has now provided the following clarification:

“A potential norm (for faculty involvement on search committees) would be majority faculty composition, with all academic units represented where possible, on search committees for positions within academic affairs whenever the position in question has wide reach across campus. Then, faculty representation on all other searches, where positions with greater academic involvement should have ‘more’ faculty involvement.”

This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

Because of a slight scheduling conflict the Committee agreed that future AAAC meetings would begin at 1:30 p.m., rather than 1:00 p.m., on a temporary basis.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.