UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

AAAC
Academic Affairs Advisory Committee

Wednesday, September 27, 2017
3:30 p.m. – Grad Programs Multipurpose Room

~ Minutes ~

Members Present: Jennifer Alvey, Aviva Dorfman, Jan Furman, Kui-Bin Im, Nick Kingsley, Dan Lair (Chair), Vickie Larsen, Greg Laurence, Marilyn McFarland and Rie Suzuki

Absent: Doug Knerr

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chair Dan Lair.

Approval of Minutes ► The committee discussed minutes for both the 8/30/2017 and 9/13/2017 meetings and determined that they could not be approved as written. Additionally, the committee determined that because it would be prohibitive to reconstruct the minutes, they would be posted in DRAFT form. The committee then discussed general expectations for minutes, stressing the need for minutes marked by a clear sense of organization and narrative coherence reflecting the contents of the meeting, offered general summaries of key points and questions raised, and prioritized readability. Chair Lair was charged to work with the Provost to ensure the quality of minutes in future meetings.

Proposal for Master of Arts in Material and Visual Culture History ► Because the committee had not been able to discuss the MVCH program with the Provost, and he was not present for the meeting, Chair Lair suggested a 15-minute discussion limit on the proposal to debrief after the visit from Profs. Lippert and Smith on 9/13/2017, after which the proposal should be tabled until the 10/11/2017 meeting. The committee agreed with this suggestion. Concerns discussed included: the clarity of the program’s central purpose; questions about student demand, particularly in light of credit hours required; the fairness and funding of the proposed stipends; admission standards; and the extent to which the program is designed from a faculty- or student-centric perspective. J. Furman noted we should ask the Provost if the program had received a previous commitment from Academic Affairs, as the proposal implied. Discussion tabled.

Program Change Request: Elementary Education, Birth – Grade Eight; Elementary Ed Math and Language Arts Minors ► A. Dorfman explained how this proposed change to the existing elementary education major and minors is a response to changes in requirements for certification programs from the Michigan Department of Education. The proposed changes streamline the program for early childhood education major students and improves the program for elementary education major students. SEHS is happy about changes proposed. K. Im moved to approve the proposal; N. Kingsley seconded. The program was approved unanimously.

Faculty Council Report ► J. Furman reported on President Schlissel’s upcoming visit to campus and on FC’s follow-up with governing faculty so that FC can represent GF’s concerns during that meeting. Chair Lair reminded the committee of Governing Faculty’s charge that we consider the climate study as it intersects with the committee’s purview in advising the Provost on issues of Academic Affairs. The committee engaged in preliminary discussion of these intersections. J. Furman asked about the
possibility for aligning departments/units with Academic Affairs (e.g., Registrar’s Office). K. Im stressed the importance of accountability and feedback mechanisms to ensure meaningful change. Chair Lair charged committee members with carefully reviewing the climate study in advance of the 10/11/2017 meeting to identify places where there are actionable items that we could focus on to address challenges identified by the climate study.

**Academic Calendar** Chair Lair disseminated an email between he and Director of HR, Beth Manning, regarding the possibility of beginning the Fall Semester prior to Labor Day. Beth felt that this is a possibility, especially if the contact hours remain the same, but a Memo of Understanding with the LEO union will likely be required.

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.