UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

AAAC

Academic Affairs Advisory Committee

Thursday, December 15, 2016
1:00 p.m. – Grad Programs Conference Room

~ Minutes ~

Members Present: Ricardo Alfaro, Jan Furman, Doug Knerr, Dan Lair, Greg Laurence (Chair), Marilyn McFarland (via conference phone), and Rie Suzuki

Absent: Aviva Dorfman, Tamim Reza, and Jie Song

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Greg Laurence.

Approval of Minutes – December 1, 2016 ► A motion was made and supported to approve the Minutes of December 1, 2016, as written. Motion carried.

Proposed Revisions to the Guidelines for Approval of New Graduate Programs ► A handout was disseminated outlining the proposed revisions and the rationale for the new graduate programs guidelines. The major reason given for the change was to streamline the process because the Graduate Board felt that it was too cumbersome. Another reason was because the current process differs significantly from Ann Arbor and Dearborn’s process. Basically the proposal called for the elimination of any standing committee reviews. Much discussion took place. AAAC had the following concerns regarding the proposal:

- Committee members felt that the proposal was not in line with Faculty Code in terms of the responsibilities of AAAC in their role of making “recommendations on all new degree programs.”
- Considering proposals for new degree programs that do not have an instructional unit.
- They are concerned with the isolation by the Graduate Board.
- They also feel that other faculty members beside the Graduate Board have a right to review newly proposed programs.

Chair Laurence will contact the Chair of the Graduate Board relaying lack of support by AAAC and the concerns that it has.

Selection of AAAC Chair for Winter 2017 ► With Chair Laurence commencing his sabbatical for Winter 2017, Dan Lair will serve as Chair of AAAC for the remainder of the academic year. Sy Banerjee will replace Greg as the SOM Representative.

AAAC Meeting Schedule for Winter 2017 ► After considering all committee members’ schedules a decision was made that AAAC Meetings for Winter 2017 will be scheduled on the first and third Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., beginning with January 5, 2017.
Selection of Jack W. Thompson, M.D. Distinguished Visiting Professor ► The Committee discussed the three submissions that were sent in regard to the Thompson Visiting Professor selection. One was deemed “not a nomination” since the letter came from someone who said that they were “applying”. The other two were discussed with the Provost stepping out of the meeting. A motion was made and supported to award the Thompson Visiting Professor appointment to Dr. Story Musgrave. Motion unanimously carried.

Provost Report ► The Provost reminded faculty that Commencement is this Sunday and praised them for making continued progress in many areas this last semester. He indicated that he has had a number of faculty who have expressed a desire to review and possibly expand the Honors Program. He indicated that with recent conversations with Mott and work that they are doing to develop additional agreements in the way of enrollment, a possibility would be to include Merit Scholarship language into the transfer agreement. He said that both he and Amy Fugate are both interested in looking at a number of other focused pathways to encompass into the agreement for students as well. The goal is allow Mott students to be part of UM-Flint for a clear path from their Associate Degree to an advanced degree. He said that once some kind of agreement is finalized, we should move on to the next largest feeder school.

Ricardo mentioned that years ago UM-Flint had students who would join the Honors Program in their junior year and this worked very well. Jan indicated that actually our last Strategic Plan had a goal to build an Honors College. Much discussion took place.

Discussion also took place regarding the need for units to provide different teaching modules. Faculty shared information regarding programs from other universities that seemed to work.

Faculty Council Report ► Jan indicated that Faculty Council hosted a breakfast meeting with SACUA from the other two campuses and members of governing faculty from three of the groups. She indicated the meeting was very productive and eliminated some preconceived ideas that the other SACUA groups had in terms of our faculty governance. Future meetings are being planned.

The remaining agenda items were tabled until the next meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.