Faculty Council Meeting Minutes: January 6, 2016

Absent: L. Alexander

1. Minutes from the 12/2/15 meeting was approved as submitted.

2. G. Laurence give an AAAC update. The committee will tour the bank building acquired by the university during their next meeting, which is on 1/7/16.

M. Farmer stated that CAC/BSP hasn’t met since the last FC meeting and will meet next week.

3. The proposed code change for the charge of the Academic Assessment Committee was discussed and edited. The change will be emailed to the faculty for a vote at the next governing faculty meeting.

4. The agenda for the 1/28/16 governing faculty meeting was discussed. The discussion will center on the AAAC recommendations for improving the online course evaluation response rate. C. Douglas will email Sue Fabbro the AAAC recommendations and agenda for the governing faculty meeting for distribution to the entire faculty.

5. The provost’s draft academic plan was discussed. A suggestion was made that the word “faculty” be inserted somewhere in the first sentence in the mission statement so the first sentence refers to faculty and student success. There was a feeling by Faculty Council that the document should do more to reflect who our students are in addition the students we hope to attract. Our students often need remediation in various areas and early intervention to improve early success in their college careers, which will increase retention. We need to think about and recognize the demographic we are first choice for and provide the resources so they can be successful. We should also establish what the role of the Office of Research is in supporting faculty research and the seeking external funding, particularly since the Office is currently without a director. We need to clarify the role of research and teaching in this institution compared to R1 institutions. More generally, we need to discuss what we are versus who we want to become. We should clarify what we mean by recruiting a nationally recognized faculty. Is this recruiting based on scholarship? How will this affect the instructional composition of professors versus lecturers if we recruit based on scholarship and offer course releases as an incentive to come? A competitive advantage of UM-Flint compared with larger institutions is that classes, including introductory classes, are taught by professors. Students at other universities often don’t see a professor until their third year. Another advantage of UM-Flint are opportunities for students to be engaged with professors in scholarship over-and-above the menial tasks they would be assigned at a major research university (e.g. washing beakers in a lab versus actively contributing to running experiments and preparing the final manuscript for publication). How does this research experience at UM-Flint fit with recruiting nationally recognized scholars at a senior level? Senior level recruitment will mark a major culture shift at the university whose implications need to be thought through. Faculty Council will invite the provost to the next FC meeting to discuss this document.
6. Due to time constraints, the discussion regarding the Maize and Blue Distinguished Scholarship Award was tabled to the next Faculty Council meeting.

7. H. Wehbe-Alamah stated that the provost met with the nursing faculty and indicated support for the creation of a School of Nursing. She requested that Faculty Council contact the provost and chancellor and request they make a public announcement regarding this. S. Selig stated that the SEHS Dean will be meeting with the chancellor soon and will request that an announcement to the campus community be made.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm