Faculty Council Meeting Minutes: January 6, 2016


The meeting was called to order at 2:35pm

1. The minutes from January 6, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. G. Laurence gave the AAAC update. The committee toured the First Merit building during its last meeting. The building will need to be separated from the other First Merit building that the bank is keeping (the one with the weather ball). This will involve the construction of a dividing wall and cutting a hole in the first floor in order to build a staircase for basement access. Furniture, especially cubicles, will have to be moved off of the floors. A new HVAC system will have to be installed and the building tied into the university’s electrical grid. The Council of Deans is working with the central administration for a plan on how to use the space. Details, move-in dates, and a budget for renovations will be forthcoming once this space plan is finalized. M. Farmer missed the CAC/BSP meeting due to a conflict with his teaching schedule but will get the minutes for the committee.

3. The Maize and Blue Distinguished Scholarship Award was discussed. A questions was raised regarding the criteria used by the Scholarship, Awards, and Special Events Committee to select the award recipients. Another question was raised regarding the distribution of awards across units and whether or not units pre-screen candidates. G. Laurence said that SOM prescreens candidates for Maize and Blue and only sends two nominations to the provost. S. Selig and H. Wehbe-Alamah stated that their departments do so as well and described the procedure. Questions for Scholarship, Awards, and Creative Activities Committee include whether or not the committee recognizes departmental procedures or if students are free to solicit letters and send them to the committee directly, and how the committee weights service relative to academics. Some Faculty Council members feel that since the award is the highest award for scholarship, scholarship would take the primary weight. C. Douglas will contact the committee for answers to these questions.

4. The provost’s response to the School of Nursing (SON) proposal was discussed. The provost indicated that they have decided to move forward with SON but the structure needs more analysis. This will happen within a new committee comprised of internal and external members. Questions were raised regarding the procedure with which the SON will be created. Does the committee’s work constitute a new proposal or an amendment to the proposal already voted on by the faculty? Will the new proposal/amendment go through the process for creating new academic units as detailed by the standing rules of the faculty? Questions were raised regarding the composition and charge of the committee. How will the committee be selected and how many will be Nursing faculty? If the original proposal is amended, Faculty Council will need to determine whether or not these amendments need to be voted on by the entire faculty.

5. The provost’s draft academic plan was discussed. Some other questions include: for whom this document was written, if there is anything addressing faculty morale and/or salary compression, and the goal of 100% student retention. It was further stressed by Faculty Council that we need to have a discussion regarding who we are as an institution, who chooses to teach here, and which students view UM-Flint at a school of first choice and how to serve these students and faculty.

6. The procedure inventory will be discussed at our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm