Faculty Council Meeting Minutes: 9/30/15

Absent: None
Meeting began at 3:05pm

Minutes from 9/9/15 meeting were approved.

The purchase of faculty regalia for newly promoted faculty and issues with last year’s Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty (CESF) report were added to the agenda as “matters arising.”

S. Selig noted that the joint lunch with the chancellor and provost is scheduled for tomorrow at 11:30am in Michigan Room A. She discussed how faculty council developed an agenda for this meeting at their last meeting. The chancellor and provost have both been given copies of the agenda. No feedback from AAAC or CAC/BSP has been received regarding the agenda. Committee members should take their own notes from the meeting for future discussion.

Items on the agenda were discussed. Examples of ambiguous areas of faculty governance were suggested. This included items such as the composition of vice chancellor search committees and resource allocations to faculty for carrying out the curricula. It was noted that only faculty comprise only 20% of the seats in the Vice Chancellor for Inclusion and Student Affairs search committee. The question was raised regarding what areas of central administration require no faculty input. Examples related to personnel, negotiations over purchase of property, and legal matters were suggested. Faculty should be involved in developing master plans that result in the purchasing of property, and the vetting of property that is being considered for purchase to ensure that it is compatible with faculty needs, however. The existing committee structure is a good starting point for major decisions. It needs to be made clear to central administration as to why different committees are vetting the same new program proposal. The role of faculty input on events such as new student convocation in terms of changing or eliminating the event or tradition was discussed, with the larger question being how much faculty input there should be in the student services division of UM-Flint. Faculty would like to remain involved in student services. A regular campus update announcing major initiatives would be helpful.

It was clarified that Faculty Council has no direct role in adjudicating faculty grievances. Faculty Council can be made aware of issues and suggest to the affected party that the grievance procedure be initiated, help the person navigate the system, and ensure the proper steps are following in the grievance procedure. H. Wehbe-Alamah noted that the Faculty Code spells out Faculty Council’s role with respect to faculty grievances.

Sometime in mid-November was suggested for the Fall semester’s governing faculty meeting. People are supposed to contact Suzanne on behalf of their units on dates to avoid for the meeting.

Vahid Lofti’s request that Graduate Board meetings be set at a certain time and this meeting time be made known to perspective board members prior to the election was approved.

Regalia was not purchased for newly promoted faculty this year, as has been the tradition. It is unclear what the reason for this is. The issue would be raised with the joint lunch with the provost and chancellor.
Issues with last year’s CESF report were discussed. Due to these issues, the CESF report was never circulated. There have been inquiries by faculty members as to the status of the CESF report. It was suggested that CESF be charged with presenting results of their report at November’s governing faculty meeting. Faculty council can provide guidance on future reports. Suzanne will contact last year’s CESF chair regarding this.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm