UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

AAAC
Academic Affairs Advisory Committee

Wednesday, November 29, 2017
3:30 p.m. – alumni Room, UCEN 327

~ Minutes ~

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

Absent: Marquetta Hall, Doug Knerr, Abdulrahman Salman

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

Approval of Minutes ► The minutes of October 25, 2017 were approved. The minutes of November 8, 2017 were approved with edits.

AAAC Meeting Dates/Times ► The next meeting is December 13, 2017 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The January 10, 2018 meeting times will be 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Winter 2018 meetings will take place every second Wednesday after that, at either 3:30, 3:45, or 4:00, depending on the availability of the incoming SEHS representative and Jie Song, who will be returning from sabbatical. Chair Lair will send meeting requests.

Proposal for Master of Arts in Material and Visual Culture History ► The committee reviewed the response to its request for revisions from the proposers of the MVCH MA. That response consisted of two separate issues: substantive issues dealing with the merit of the program itself, and procedural issues challenging the authority of AAAC to evaluate certain elements of the proposal. After quickly reviewing AAAC’s scope and charge, the committee decided to treat these issues separately, considering the merits of the proposal itself before turning to broader questions about AAAC’s role in the program approval process.

After much deliberation and discussion, the proposal was not recommended by the committee. The committee appreciated both the idea behind MVCH and many of the revisions made by the proposers. While several issues remain, consensus emerged around two concerns in particular. First, at 42 credit hours, the program is well outside of institutional norms for MA programs. Second, the program requests $17,000 in stipends to recruit new graduate students. Such stipends are not available to many current programs, particularly within CAS, and other programs who did not have access to such resources in the recent past have closed due to low enrollment. The committee welcomed a broader discussion about stipends as a recruiting tool, but did not support a new program having access to such resources without such a conversation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.