Faculty Council - Minutes of June 27, 2018

Location: 320 TL Library Director’s Conference Room

Present: Emily Newberry (Chair), James Schirmer (Secretary/Chair-Elect), Mickey Doyle, Ricardo Alfaro (Past Chair), Adam Lutzker, DJ Trela, Judy Haefner (remotely attending), Aviva Dorfman (remotely attending), Cathy Miller, Sy Banerjee, Nick Kingsley

Absent: Suzanne Selig

Guests:

Meeting brought into session at 11:03am

May 2 minutes approved by acclamation

Meeting brought into executive session at 11:08am

Meeting brought into regular session at 11:24am

Committee update: CAC/BSP
Cathy Miller discussed the present state of the budget, adding that the university is spending a little over target, but we are better than we were a year ago. Mike Hague was the executive officer present at the meeting and, according to Adam Lutzker, provided some moderate reassurance, i.e., the budget is tight and enrollment is flat but UM-Flint is not burning through cash reserves at an alarming rate.

Ricardo Alfaro asked about a recent announcement regarding tuition and fees as related to how much money the university may or may not receive from the state. Cathy Miller noted the importance of clarification here on the measure of tuition and fees vs tuition alone and Adam Lutzker said they will ask about this at the next CAC/BSP meeting, scheduled for July 18.

SPG 201.96
Emily Newberry introduced a draft of a document from HR director Beth Manning regarding the establishment of a clear process for reporting, investigating, and finalizing investigations related to alleged violations of SPG 201.96 at UM-
Flint. While 201.96 outlines the professional conduct of faculty, there is currently no process for how to handle claims of unprofessional conduct. Manning has asked for early feedback on this process document from Faculty Council as well as unit deans.

Most of the document in question outlines the process and, in discussing the document, Faculty Council raised questions about time constraints and areas of authority regarding appointments and recommendations. In particular, Judy Haefner noted how the current document provides the provost with a lot of discretionary power, although Faculty Council overall was okay with this as other members observed that circumstances may raise that need immediate action (i.e., frivolous claims as well as physical threats). Faculty Council also suggested potential corrections to awkward and/or confusing language in the document.

Committee update: AAAC

Nick Kingsley noted the following three matters:

- **Academic calendar:** In two consecutive years now the academic calendar written and approved by AAAC has not been the one ultimately followed. With only 13 instructional weeks in the current calendar, AAAC did and does endorse starting before Labor Day. Further, if the UM-Flint cabinet retains ultimate authority over the academic calendar, AAAC suggests the development of a committee with two members of AAAC plus members from each university unit.

- **College of Health Sciences:** AAAC asked specific questions related to the unit’s name change. However, what the Regents approved was different from what a CHS representative presented to AAAC, namely the possibility of restructuring via three new departments over the next three years. From AAAC’s perspective, a college vs. a school carries with it a certain understanding and that faculty were not provided greater opportunity to voice concerns and discuss the name change is frustrating. In particular, Judy Haefner stressed that names are important, implying a certain structure, a certain level of academic excellence, and is concerned that the School of Nursing, which is pursuing its own name change, may instead be brought under the CHS umbrella.

- **Drop/withdrawal process:** The new process by which students petition to drop a class or withdraw from the semester includes signing a complete medical waiver before said petition will even be considered. While it is not illegal to request, the committee, newly created by the registrar, has every right not to consider the petition at all without that information.
Kingsley also observed that in each of these matters important decisions were made above/without faculty input. There also arises the question of why AAAC exists when all of the committee’s work has been dismissed and opportunities for significant discussion are absent.

Faculty Council echoed Kingsley’s concerns about faculty governance, noted how these decisions are not student-centered, and discussed reaching out to the interim provost as well as the chair of AAAC so that faculty committees do not remain mired in demoralizing efforts.

**Matters arising**
Emily Newberry updated Faculty Council on committee replacements, including that Allon Goldberg’s replacement is Suzanne Selig. Newberry also said that the university nominating committee will send out a ballot this fall, which will include a position on the graduate board to replace Dan Lair. It is also worth noting that for all appointments of more than a year, an election must be held.

Adam Lutzker asked about a possible July or August meeting. Emily Newberry did not anticipate a need, but plans to reach out to the interim provost and reminded Faculty Council that it will meet every two weeks starting September 12.

Meeting adjourned at 1238pm

Respectfully submitted,
James Schirmer, Secretary/Chair-Elect