Faculty Council - Minutes of February 8, 2019

Location: 320 TL Library Director’s Conference Room

Present: Ricardo Alfaro (Past Chair), Judy Haefner, Emily Newberry (Chair), Suzanne Selig, James Schirmer (Secretary/Chair Elect), DJ Trela

Absent: Sy Banerjee, Aviva Dorfman, Mickey Doyle, Nick Kingsley (AAAC), Adam Lutzker, Cathy Miller (CAC/BSP)

Guest: Steve Turner, Interim Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Programs

Meeting brought into session at 9:05am

No quorum for approval of minutes of January 9 and January 23

IRB discussion
Faculty Council welcome Steve Turner and engaged in an extensive discussion regarding the future of UM-Flint’s Institutional Review Board. S. Turner shared that he has been tasked by Interim Provost S. Alock with gathering information from faculty regarding IRB and what they would like to see happen. This task relates to Mary Mandeville’s retirement and, from S. Turner’s perspective, the unlikelihood of a full-time replacement for that position. Also, from data gathered thus far, S. Turner shared that UM-Flint’s IRB handles a considerably lower number of cases than Ann Arbor, but he stressed an interest in faculty satisfaction.

E. Newberry shared prior comments from A. Dorfman regarding the importance of UM-Flint IRB’s availability as well as the levels of access and contact that would be lost with any movement toward Ann Arbor. J. Haefner noted the two SON graduate programs soon to start and how students in those programs will file with IRB, explaining that there is a difference between actual number of cases and the degree of associated IRB work.

Following a question from DJ Trela regarding possible pressure from Ann Arbor, S. Turner clarified that there is no institutional intention to move IRB from Flint and that Dearborn is presently engaged in a pilot project that was not forced upon them.

S. Selig explained that because of new graduate programs, existing relationships with other IRBs (namely Hurley Medical Center), community involvement and
UM-Flint’s mission to be civically engaged, and how attempts at centralization work against both standards and uniqueness, UM-Flint should maintain IRB presence. S. Selig also noted that even a move to make the IRB support position part time would be austere, signaling that Flint no longer needs what we had before.

R. Alfaro observed two issues, the first being that UM-Flint faculty were likely to object to IRB being moved to Ann Arbor and the second being that there is no satisfactory answer yet regarding IRB administrative support. S. Selig explained that IRB faculty are not compensated and likely wouldn’t agree to a reduction of administrative support. J. Haefner suggested that removing IRB presence from the UM-Flint campus would go against the university’s recent rise in Carnegie classification.

E. Newberry asked about a possible timeline for information gathering. S. Turner shared that this would not be a quick process and that he would be listening to other faculty groups, including AAAC.

**Survey of administrators**
Faculty Council again read through and updated the surveys of administrators for unit deans and associate deans as well as two vice chancellors and the provost. J. Schirmer will distribute to those administrators for additional feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 9:59am