

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well  
**University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well**

---

Consultative Committee

Campus Governance

---

9-16-2011

## Consultative minutes 09/16/2011

Consultative Committee

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/consult>

---

### Recommended Citation

Consultative Committee, "Consultative minutes 09/16/2011" (2011). *Consultative Committee*. 1.  
<http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/consult/1>

This Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Campus Governance at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in Consultative Committee by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact [skulann@morris.umn.edu](mailto:skulann@morris.umn.edu).

Consultative Committee  
Prairie Lounge  
September 16, 2011  
9:00 am – 10:15 am

Committee members present: Co-chairs Jen Zych Herrmann and Nic McPhee, Brook Miller, Jim Barbour, Bonnie Tipcke, Molly Donovan, Naomi Wentz and LeAnn Dean.

Committee members absent: Manjari Govada, Sarah Buchanan, Nancy Helsper

Guest: Bart Finzel

VCAA and Dean Bart Finzel invited the committee's feedback on several issues:

- 1) Transition to a world without an individual designated as Assistant Dean
- 2) Concept of a "Founders Scholar of the Liberal Arts"
- 3) Open invitation to help him identify issues that the Consultative Committee believes to be important areas for him to address.

- 1) Bart explained that Jeff Ratliff-Crain had been persuaded to extend his original term as Assistant Dean but that September 15 was officially his last day. Since no one had been selected to succeed Jeff in this appointment, the decision as to status of the Assistant Dean position had been decided prior to July 1 when Bart assumed his new duties. Bart is suggesting a model where people in positions who had reported to the Assistant Dean be given the authority and leadership responsibilities in their areas, with ultimate and signatory responsibilities reverting to the Dean's office. These units would be given additional resources to successfully carry out their responsibilities. Since Jeff had a long laundry list of duties, Bart cautioned that we needed to be careful that we identify and address them all, with none falling between the cracks. For example, something that Bart has thought about is the connection between Jeff and the Student Affairs area. We need to make sure those overlapping concerns are taken care of. The Consultative Committee had many conversations in the past academic year on the position of Assistant Dean and it was noted how Jeff's responsibilities had proliferated over time. Bart stressed that it is important that offices had necessary resources. Using the salary dollars previously assigned to the one person in the Assistant Dean position, it is suggested that 1) a USA classification employee be hired to provide additional support to units involved and 2) funds be allocated to a number of other areas to provide additional support (summer registration and other functions). Also envisioned is a kind of Master Advising Plan that had been suggested by the Advising office a number of years ago. This would involve "uber" advisers designated from the various divisions/disciplines that would, for example, be paid to provide assistance in the summer. This plan would institutionalize these aspects of advising in an office rather than a person. Bart also suggested enhancing the role of the Retention Coordinator in Scholastic Committee and other processes. The committee recalled various previous models at UMM such as when Karla Klinger and later Leslie Meek provided leadership and coordination. It was noted that it's important to maintain good records of procedures and policies to ensure continuity. We also need to delineate roles as student advocates, policy specialists and other functions. In the past there was a lack of clarity as to who was in charge, so it would be good to have a plan that included definitive roles.

Bart was asked about the Academic Assistance and Disability Services areas. He is suggesting they retain more autonomy in their units and he agreed with comments that there was a need for more

staffing and other resources due to higher numbers needing their services. ACE and International study functions will continue to function as they have, with the same leadership at least for the next year. It was suggested that the Career Center responsibilities are not as directly related to the previously discussed areas and would have more autonomy as well.

- 2) Bart outlined a plan to inaugurate a “Founders Scholar of the Liberal Arts” initiative which would engage faculty to address an aspect of the liberal arts that they find interesting and would lend itself to a final product (white paper, creative work or many other possibilities). The summer stipends of somewhere between \$10,000 and \$15,000 would be funded by an endowment. Such works would hopefully be shared widely and would enhance the reputation of UMM. Depending on the work, it might be included in the UMM Digital Well (institutional repository) and shared to a national and international audience. The Consultative Committee discussed in very general terms how a group would be charged with determining selection criteria, administration of the award and other details. Additional considerations may be budgeting for possible student involvement, travel expenses and other supply needs. A timeline for implementation and the possibility of merit involvement were also discussed.

Though not related to this initiative, the question was asked of Bart as to the status of the Blake Visiting Scholar endowed program. He replied that, since the Science and Math division is the next in the rotation, they are working on gathering names and have begun the planning process.

- 3) Bart requested suggestions from committee members that would be important for him to address. This list suggested by committee members included: faculty salary comparison and initiatives, program reviews, infrastructure support for international students, and the resource allocation task force connections to academic support. Bart also responded to a question about the Stellar program reporting positive and promising results.

Respectfully submitted,  
LeAnn Dean

Assistant Dean position/responsibilities

- Our feedback regarding a process for the "Founders Scholar of the Liberal Arts"
- Help identifying the issues our membership believes to be the most vital for the VCAA