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Campus Assembly minutes 04/20/2011

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Campus Assembly Minutes
April 20, 2011

I. Chancellors Remarks

Chancellor Johnson said she likes to start assembly meetings with good news and interesting facts—when there is that to share and there almost always is—including today.

Today two wind turbines are spinning; the gasifier is burning corn cobs; the steam turbine is engaged; and the natural gas fired boilers are on standby. We are not using any fossil fuels today; we are “energy independent” using our natural local resources to provide for our needs. This seems like especially good news in the middle of earth week.

Last weekend there were more events on campus than any of us, including me, could possibly have attended—the URS was a great success, thanks to Adele Raymond, Gordon McIntosh, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Cheryl Contant and the committee that arranged this day and to all of you who mentored students and who attended. I loved the play but I missed the choir concert. Of course the fashion trashion show in its third year was better than ever and I intend to wear my red rose to commencement. If you have to ask you really should have been there. And it’s my understanding that UMM won the first annual prairie cup in the ground Quidditch competition.

Today Bryan Herrmann shared with me the latest statistics regarding new and returning students and on every front the news is very good. New high school deposits are up 22% over last year; transfer student deposits are up as well—we are in the counterpart of December for transfer students, they come in later; and returning student numbers as measured by numbers of students who have registered thus far are also up significantly over last year. We are on our way to meeting our enrollment targets and I couldn’t be happier.

This is good news and I want to thank all of you who play a role in effecting these successes—and that is all of you. But as Bryan points out, it is still early. We will be in a better position to predict the fall right around Memorial Day. We have 50 admitted students scheduled to visit campus this Friday—most of them have not yet decided, so thanks to all of you who have agreed to let these students into your classes to check us out first hand and who have agreed to meet with them. We need to work together, even in a time when we are looking at how we balance our budget and cut resources, to ensure that we are staffing classes adequately and meeting our students’ needs in terms of getting the classes they need when they need them at times that work for them.

II. For Action. From the Executive Committee. Minutes from 3/8/11 Campus Assembly meeting were approved as presented.

III. For Action. From the Executive Committee. Approve minutes from 3/31/11 Assembly

Chancellor Johnson suggests a change in the order of the sentences that she believes more accurately reflects what transpired. Then she would like to comment on events that transpired at the end of the meeting to tell you how the parliamentarian and she and Executive Committee have decided to proceed at the meeting today. Chancellor Johnson’s commentary is that the meeting ended at 6:00 p.m. without a motion to extend. At that time there was a motion on the

floor. We will consider that motion still on the floor and we would like to return to that motion when we get to items VI and VII on this meeting's agenda. While we could and some of you might argue should deal with this motion as our first item of business, she thinks this meeting will flow better—since we have voting and other action items in front of us—if we proceed in this way.

There were still concerns about the minutes of March 31 minutes and there was a motion to table until the next meeting. Unanimously approved.

IV. For Action. From the Division of Education. Proposal regarding Membership Committee.

Michelle Page made a motion that the Division of Education be allowed during this transitional year, to widen our nominating pool for the Division of Education seat on the Membership Committee, to include instructional P&A, not faculty only. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

Michelle made a second motion that in the event there is only one nominee that this be an election of acclamation because we are unable to get a field of candidates. Motion seconded.

Michelle added that are there 7 faculty including the division chair; however there are many colleagues in sports sciences and athletics. Matt Privratsky asked if this issue was addressed during the constitutional revision task force meetings. Michael Korth said this was discussed and the conclusion was that it's important to have divisional representation. Dave Roberts suggested that if constitutional revisions are considered during the next academic year, we may want to say that divisional representation is desired. Remy Huerta thinks that if one particular division doesn't want to represent themselves then that's the division's problem and she is strongly against the motion. Michelle pointed out that it's simply not a choice that they don't want to be represented, the division simply does not have enough people. Sarah Buchanan thinks it would be a disservice to not have divisional representation on committees.

Results: Yes 37, No 33, Abstain 14 Motion fails.

V. For Action. From the Executive Committee. Election of Consultative Committee.

Two P&A slots: LeAnn Dean (two year) and Christine Mahoney (one year)
Two faculty slots: Brook Miller (two year) and Sarah Buchanan (one year)

VI. For Discussion. From the Executive Committee. Campus Common Meeting time.

The Executive Committee determined it beneficial to talk about the common meeting time and specific proposals. After 30 minutes of discussion we will complete the vote from the last meeting—determine yes or no in favor of a common meeting time. If that motion fails, there will be no vote. If the motion is approved, the Executive Committee will issue a paper ballot that would be delivered to all members of the campus assembly with four meeting times listed that are attached to your docket materials. A fifth option would be none of the above. If we vote for a common meeting time, everyone who is a member of Campus Assembly will have an opportunity to vote for one of the options.

Chris Cole wondered how the Executive Committee can say the motion is on the floor when the motion has been changed. Chancellor Johnson said the motion on the floor from the last meeting was simply whether to have a common meeting time. Margaret Kuchenreuther asked for point of order and wondered if the motion on the floor dies at the end of the meeting. Paula

O'Loughlin said she is not speaking for or against but asked for background on why the Executive Committee chose to do a very different voting procedure for this vote rather than how voting has been done in the past. Michelle Page said the Executive Committee heard a lot of concerns that this would be a disadvantage for those who could not attend the assembly meeting. Paula asked when the decision was made to do paper ballots instead of voting at the meeting. Chancellor Johnson responded that it is the purview of the Executive Committee to recommend ways to proceed. The Executive Committee is exercising its prerogative as a way to proceed for a common meeting time.

There were many concerns expressed about the common meeting time and how this might affect class schedules, student organizations, choir, athletics, etc. and this will not be the solution that everyone envisions.

Additional concerns and more discussion included the observation that we are prioritizing meetings over other things. It was suggested that we go back to the drawing board because clearly people are very uncomfortable and are not convinced we have the optimum configuration of the four proposals.

Motion to extend meeting for 15 minutes approved unanimously.

Parliamentarian Barbara Burke said we have voted to extend our meeting time past 6:00 p.m. and at the time the Assembly meeting ends unless we have another motion to extend. We either have to continue or table the motion.

Prior to voting on the motion to extend the meeting for 15 minutes, a motion to extend the meeting to 6:30 was made and seconded. The motion to extend the meeting to 6:30 failed.

The motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes passed.

Michelle Page added that the task force looked at a variety of options and brought those most appropriate forward. She believes it would be dangerous to vote on seven or eight plans. The task force did their work and considered many things that not everyone in the Campus Assembly may understand. Len Keeler added the task force seriously listened to all concerns. Paula O'Loughlin called the question.

VII. For Action. From the Executive Committee. Motion to adopt a common meeting time.

Chancellor Johnson explained the motion on the floor is to have a common meeting time. If you vote yes, we will have a common meeting time. If you vote no, it's over and there will not be a common meeting time.

Results: 33 Yes, 35 No, 4 Abstentions – Motion fails.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.