Academic Support Services Committee   Campus Governance

4-23-2015

ASSC minutes 04/23/2015

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Minutes
April 23, 2015

The final meeting of the Academic Support Services Committee for the 2015 academic year began at 9:02 a.m. on Thursday, April 23rd 2015. The meeting was held in the McGinnis Room of the Rodney A. Briggs Library. Members present: Brenda Boever, Sykle Boyd, Mike Cihak, Chris Dalleger, LeAnn Dean, Jim Hall, Matt Johnson and Tisha Turk.

The minutes were read from the March 18th, 2015 meeting. There were some minor stylistic changes - capitalizations and a clarification regarding Sightlines.

Jim Hall gave an update on the technology planning effort at UMM. Lowell Rasmussen, vice chancellor of facilities and finance, and Bart Finzel, academic dean, were going to create a charge for a refresh of the technology IT Master Plan. However, the vice chancellors group questioned the need for a refresh at this time and noted that there were many identified strategies yet being implemented, including: wireless, learning commons, help desk, green campus and classroom technology. Hall outlined several information-gathering opportunities used to identify local priorities currently utilized on campus, including Big Block of Cheese to help drive topics to share with OIT leadership when they visit campus. Mike Cihak stated there are other input opportunities that could be used; UMM Techpeople, ASSC or Planning Committee could be mechanisms to consolidate data from other groups or divisions. UMM TechPeople is an open group of stakeholders who have a voice consisting of Briggs Library, Computing Services and Instructional and Media Technologies, along with stakeholders from OneStop, University Relations, Admissions and Disability Services. This group provides a great lens for discussion of technology topics, needs and issues.

Jim Hall brought up the upcoming accreditation of oral communication that will evaluate content and not the spaces. However, faculty have noted deficiencies in many of the classroom spaces on campus. Sylke Boyd stated some of the spaces are not conducive architecturally. Tisha Turk said this should be true for all classrooms and that the Cow Palace is the best space for presentations on campus.

LeAnn Dean reported several initiatives occurring at Briggs Library. The Library Strategic Plan consists of three student focus groups, surveys, peer comparison to tie all together. There is also considerable reconfiguring going to take place after commencement. Library offices will move to the third floor, while the Office of Academic Success will move to second floor. Inter Library Loan will relocate to the first floor. Second floor will have additional group study spaces that can be used as testing areas. Boyd asked what was the motivation for flipping floors. Chris Dalleger stated it looks better for disability services to be on the same floor as students enter the building. Dean added that the second floor is a more collaborative space in this configuration. Dalleger talked about how the issue of signage that isn't accessible for vision impaired students - signage does not have braille. Dean commented that in her experience,

signage purchased through the Twin Cities campus is very slow. Dalleger reminded everyone that code says braille is required on building signage. Brenda Boever added that signage should be created and installed at the same time the spaces are renovated - not afterwards, so students who need the assistance can navigate the new spaces immediately to better familiarize themselves to the change of physical layout. Dean recommended that signage be paid for by project money, not SE&E. Vern Brown's name was brought up as a local source for signage, but it was questioned if he had braille capability.

Hall gave an update regarding the Upgrade. He was in a conference call recently and it was said that there has been a decline in the number of support calls. Much of it was due to the fact that many people were well aware of the changes. Boyd questioned who is collecting information to improve the class schedule. Boever shared that there are now multiple clicks to achieve some of the previous functionality, but still cannot see all of the information. Computing Services is still coordinating schedules with Network Technology Services (NTS) on wireless installation, with library and campus apartments occurring this summer. Hall reported UThink blogs will be retired in June 2015 and Netfiles will be retired in April 2016. Users will need to use Google Drive. Cihak mentioned one of the best features of NetFiles was the ability to manage guest access though tickets that can create accessibility limitations to files and folders, and set access to expire at predetermined times.

Mike Cihak gave his report. He outlined technology maintenance that will occur in several learning spaces this summer. He also shared information on the HD television studio project that will benefit the Communication, Media and Rhetoric discipline, most notably mass media and oral speaking; along with university branding and external programming opportunities. Cihak did identify a topic for future discussion of how funding of education technology is handled at UMM. Perhaps this is something ASSC can help with.

Mike Cihak mentioned the Online Learning Task Force has finalized its report. This should be shared at Academic Support Services Committee in the future.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Cihak
Instructional and Media Technologies