

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well
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Consultative Committee

Campus Governance

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Consultative Committee

Oct 17, 2013

Committee members present: Co-chairs Ray Schultz and Joe Daniewicz, Jim Hall, LeAnn Dean, Allison Wolf, Nancy Helsper, Heather Waye, Jean Rohloff, Jim Barbour, Chad Braegelmann, Molly Donovan, Janet Ericksen

Guests: Jess Larson, Sarah Ashkar, Stephanie Ferrian

Updates:

Ray spoke with Sarah Mattson about coming to committee. She will visit with us next week. One issue is that there aren't a lot of benefits counselor visits. Could they come down and stay overnight so they can be here for two days. Sarah is checking on that.

Minutes:

Ray proposed a slight change to the Oct 10 minutes. Ray will announce to next Assembly meeting that we are working on the civility issue. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Comments from board members:

Appreciated Marynel's comments that they don't feel completely certain of the direction they plan to go. Not a lot of consensus here, whether there should be a faculty member or not, can a non-faculty member do the job effectively. Seems makeshift, not sure what is happening next semester at this stage.

There are separate problems. What is to be done for this year? Larger issue for the board is the directorship. How much "directing" would this person really do? What is the supervisory role of the board? It would be hard to find someone to fill that role who isn't faculty, but who faculty would listen to. Has to be someone who can really work well with students, and knows the student population.

If we wanted to have a board member come in to talk to us, someone could be available.

We need to know what the job would actually entail, what the responsibilities would be.

Discussion asking if the person were asked to teach an IC course, or have some teaching responsibility. Can we put that expectation into the contract? This is a Sarah Mattson question. It is important for the person to be available in the summer as well.

What would be the term on the board, for the appointment? Bart had said there would be some changeover. There might be staggered terms of 3-4 years to serve on the board.

Visit from ACE:

1. Jess

Interim director right now, replacing Jeff Ratliff-Crain and Paula O'Loughlin. Oversees general duties and behaviors of the office. Tends to be a lot of foot traffic, always dealing with students coming in all the time. In charge of the Morris Stipend, study abroad or research project. Also her job is to reimagine the visibility of the office on campus.

About how many hours in the office? She was given a course release. There isn't a definition for what that means, course release to hours. During the week, and in the evening.

Also supposed to be serving the board, but haven't figured out the dynamics of the board.

Is there enough work for a FT position? They've been talking about that.

2. Sarah

Her position was reimaged this year. Study Abroad & Exchange Coordinator. Also includes student advising, programming, info sessions, etc. and being the main contact in ACE for 40 hrs/wk.

Also she has the institutional memory, since she served for the three directors.

It doesn't make sense to hire someone just to answer questions. Does it make sense that an expansion of her position would be more accurate? Perhaps.

By virtue of position, also serves on international programs committee, and international council.

3. Stephanie

Position was also reimaged, hired in late May. During August-May, was only in ACE office 80%, and 20% teaching dance. Undergrad research, honors program, international paperwork, fellowship awards, book rooms, collect paperwork for study abroad and exchange. Can also fill in for Sarah.

Stephanie is shared with Academic Alert. Want to carve out a master calendar with advising, academic alert and retention, and ACE.

There are 5 programs under ACE to track and maintain. And budget and support for URS.

Is faculty position required for ACE? Perhaps. Will faculty accept a staff person doing the position? Having someone there who knows how to teach and advise is an important part of the position.

If there were a board with faculty, would the director be required to be academic? Probably, but maybe not. Staff could do it, but questions if it is a good idea to bring in someone from outside the campus community to do this job.

The board is structured with faculty members that know these programs and how they integrate into what UMM offers.

Successes and challenges of this configuration? Is it a good thing to keep exploring? It is good in that we're trying to find areas where they overlap. What will be challenging for board members is working as a unit. The dynamic of solo versus group efforts will be a challenge for anyone serving on the board.

The board is good in theory. Can't say it is or isn't working, because they've only met once and it wasn't a meeting where they planned to do work. If the board is something they plan to continue, they need more clarity about what the board is, the powers, how the board fits into governance, etc, in addition to a director. That person could formulate a long term engagement plan. The board needs to be empowered with the authority and funds to do that.

All 3 of the directors have had unique styles. Nervous about bringing in a staff person for 40 hrs and having nothing to do. The dean had previously talked about the summer. A FT person would be able to do things in the summer, as well.

ACE is not sure there would be enough work to keep full time person during the summer. Scheduling and other work could be planned. Or, a faculty director could have a summer stipend to keep working on the summer.

If we undid the combination of what Sarah is doing and rethought that, there might be room for expansion.

What about calling it an ACE coordinator rather than director? This might be historical. This is probably also an HR issue.

Jess is very receptive and equally invested in all the programs. It's important that the director encompasses them all the same, so nothing falls through cracks. This would also be important for building cooperation between all five programs, finding areas where they overlap, and getting students involved.

The faculty director probably has *not* been a failed experiment, just that people who take it have left.

Resistance to change is a barrier to setting up the board structure. It requires that they set up offices hours in ACE, and they resisted. Offices hours would help with communication. It's been hard to stay in

communication with the members of the board otherwise.

Communication as a whole, seeing how students interact with faculty, it's important for students to be in the conversation too, to know what students feel about the office.

- Next week is Sarah Mattson

Respectfully submitted by Jim Hall