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Finance minutes 12/11/2014

Finance Committee

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UMM Finance Committee Minutes

12.11.14

Members Present: Dennis Stewart, Michael Korth, Pieranna Garavaso, Timna Wyckoff, Ellery Wealot, Brad Deane, Lowell Rasmussen, Jong-Min Kim, Jayne Blodgett, Laura Thielke

Members Absent: Mary Zosel, Marco Riley, Sara Haugen

Guests: Hilda Ladner, Colleen Miller, Melissa Wrobleski-Note Taker

Agenda:

1. Approval of December 4th, 2014 minutes:

Corrections were made, the committee approved the minutes.

2. International Student Fee:

Hilda Ladner came to the Finance Committee to discuss the International Fee and the International Student Programs. The International Student Programs have been reporting to Hilda since 2009 at which time there were approximately 50 students in the program. This fall there are about 173 students in the International Student Programs. Because of the continued growth of the program, in the spring of 2010 the International Student Fee was proposed and approved for use. The fee is currently \$150 per term (fall, spring, and summer) and is used to support activities, events, programs and materials specifically designed to enhance the experience of the International Student in accordance with the description in the Tuition and Fee System.

Hilda submits a memo to Colleen yearly, as part of the University fee review process, projecting the revenues and justifies what the funds are used for. Hilda provided a copy of this memo as a handout to the committee members. The International funds are used to support staff salary, stipends for student ambassadors/mentors, transportation costs, and programs and activities.

A second fee discussed was STELLAR (Student Transition for English Language and Liberal Arts Readiness). This fee has three sections: deposit of \$500, tuition of \$1,352.31, and Travel/Lodging/Transportation/Room/Board of \$1036.69. This program is offered to help students, from outside the area, to acclimate to UMM and help them understand what a Liberal Arts college is about. The STELLAR program is completely self-supporting and students choose whether or not they want to attend this program. The cost is a little higher than others might expect; but this program is a little more high end for Morris and Hilda and the others in her office work hard to provide a good experience filled with interesting activities including an extended weekend trip to Duluth, a weekend in the Twin Cities, and other trip around the Morris area to introduce the new students to the different opportunities available to them by attending UMM.

- Are there a lot of funds carried over each year in the STELLAR program?
 - No. Hilda works with Colleen to make sure that the funds charged are covering all the expenses; while at the same time, are not creating a continuing carry forward each year.

UMM partnered with the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFU) in China and this is where a number of our International Student's come from. Many of these students choose to be in the STELLAR program in the summer to acclimate to UMM and the area. Last year only 6 SUFU students, out of 32, did not sign up for the STELLAR program.

- Why do we have the STELLAR Program? Retention?
 - Retention is one of the reasons for the STELLAR program, but overall UMM is trying to address that not all of the international students stay here the full 4 years. This program is in place to help prepare students and understand what a liberal arts education is about.
- Do you foresee large increases in either the International Student Fee or the STELLAR Fee? Would these fees change if the University approved the Out-of-State Tuition Differential for Morris?
 - Hilda did not believe a tuition differential would affect these two fees. Currently Duluth and the Twin Cities have the tuition differential.
- Is there anything in the agreement with SUFU about a max on tuition for the students that come to UMM?
 - Hilda could not think of anything like that mentioned in the current contract. She said that the contract expired in a year or so and the contract will need to be reviewed by both schools and agreed upon.
 - A committee member then said that the tuition differential for non-reciprocity/non-resident students and the fees that the International Student Program charges are two separate issues. They each go to support different activities.
 - The International Student Programs office is not expecting to increase their fees for FY16.
- Where does the tuition for ESL (English as a Second Language) and the International programs go?
 - All tuition funds go into the general tuition pool and tuition is attributed to UMM as part of the central allocation of funds.
 - If UMM were to have stricter English requirements, would that change attendance to the ESL program?
 - Hilda said that the requirements are currently under review.

Hilda then advised that there was another International Student Fee called 'International Student Academic Services Fee' that goes to help support international students and is collected by the Dean's Office. The Tuition and Fee Management System description is: "The resources from this fee will be specifically employed to enhance academic services for international students, with the focus of ensuring retention, timely graduation, and student satisfaction with their UMM experience."

A comment was made that maybe UMM is not providing enough support to ESL students and we should have more classes. Someone else also stated that ESL courses are very important and it is understood that UMM is trying to support this program as best as we can with the resources available. ESL program discussions are in the works continuously by staff, thinking about what they are able to do. In the mean time they are working to provide good support to those in the program.

3. Great Lakes Grant: Plans to support programs after the grants run out.

The grant currently goes to support the Morris College Success program (MCSP), which is in its second year, and supports about 80 students. Hilda is currently working on writing a grant proposal to continue this program for another year. Currently Great Lakes uses profits collected through student loan programs they own and take some of those funds to help support higher education programs such as our MCSP program which is in place to help first and second generation students. Now that the program is helping more students and is getting more organized, Hilda said they are working on collecting the correct data to help justify the continuation of this program.

Time ran short and the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is to be determined for spring semester.