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Consultative Committee

Campus Governance

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Minutes of the UMM Consultative Committee

May 2, 2006

Present: Nancy Carpenter (ex officio), Ranae Faaborg, Pam Gades, Roland Guyotte (chair), Judy Korn, Margaret Kuchenreuther, Maggie Larson, Gretchen Murphy, Michelle Page, Geoff Sheagley, Rebecca Webb

Guest: Lowell Rasmussen

Chair Guyotte convened the meeting at 9:00 a. m. in the Prairie Lounge. Lowell Rasmussen presented the Committee with a draft proposal for a 50% FTE Campus Sustainability Coordinator. This proposal is enabled by a portion of the estimated \$240,000 indirect cost recovery funds from the three-year USDA/DOE biomass grant. UMM administrators have studied sustainability coordinators at various colleges and universities. He outlined administrative and curricular tasks for the coordinator, emphasizing the centrality of an academic component: coordinating UROP projects related to the grant, serving as a resource for faculty wishing to include environmental components in their courses, helping develop potential concentrations in

Environmental science/studies, promote "sustainability" literacy in general education, etc.

Committee members responded favorably to the proposal but expressed several concerns: 1. what happens to the position after the three-year grant runs out? 2. can the technical and academic/public relations components be merged so that one person can do the job? 3. to whom should the coordinator report? Others remarked that similar structural issues need to be addressed whenever UMM embarks on interdisciplinary ventures, such as women studies and service learning. Perhaps, if the coordinator proposal moves forward, the Campus Resources and Planning Committee ought to think now about ways of institutionalizing the position when the grant runs out.

On another matter, members urged the chair to invite the Constitutional Revision Committee to a meeting in early fall. The Committee passed a motion to this effect.

A member expressed concern about the implications of the China exchange program and suggested that Vice Chancellor Olson-Loy discuss this matter with the Committee.

The Committee adjourned at 10:00 a. m.