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Consultative Committee

Campus Governance

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Consultative minutes 02/03/2012

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Consultative Committee Meeting
February 3, 2012
Moccasin Flower Room
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Committee members present: Co-chairs Jen Zych Herrmann and Nic McPhee, Jim Barbour, LeAnn Dean, Troy Goodnough, Manjari Govada, Holly Gruntner, Nancy Helsper, Dennis Stewart, Bonnie Tipcke

Committee members absent: Zac Van Cleve, Brook Miller

Guest: VCAA and Dean, Bart Finzel

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Co-chair Nic McPhee explained that the point of the meeting was to talk about the changes that are taking place in reaction to the dissolution of the assistant dean position. Dean Bart Finzel was present at the meeting in order to answer the Committee's questions and provide further information.

Dean Finzel began by explaining that the reason the assistant dean position was dissolved was because the campus couldn't afford it. The more pragmatic option when Jeff Ratliff-Crain stepped down was to move his assistant dean responsibilities to support offices and to provide said offices with additional resources. A position will be added in the Academic Success area, allowing Ginger Nohl to work full time in Academic Advising and Retention.

To pick up some of the other duties left from the assistant dean position, Finzel explained a plan to create a trained corps of "master advisors" who will be able to refer students to counseling, disability services, etc. The advisors will receive compensation for their extended duties.

McPhee suggested that the changes be communicated at an upcoming Campus Assembly meeting, and Dennis Stewart suggested that veteran advisors be encouraged to attend advisor trainings so that they can be informed of the new structure.

The Consultative Committee also brought up Ratliff-Crain's list of priorities, wondering if Finzel has his own list. Finzel said that although he doesn't have a list on paper, one of his concerns involves acclimating new faculty/staff members into the UMM community.

McPhee mentioned that the science department has developed an informal mentorship program;

people from different areas are paired up and typically meet once a week. Troy Goodnough added that it would be nice to give new faculty/staff a list outlining where to go on campus for specific issues. The Committee agreed that it would be helpful to have both a list and a mentor, so that orientation wouldn't be the only opportunity for new people's questions to be answered.

Dean Finzel asked for the committee's assistance in developing a process for integration/acclimation of new faculty and staff. The composition of the committee makes us uniquely poised to create such a proposal. The committee was charged with developing such a proposal that will then be shared with the dean.

Dean Finzel then asked for suggestions for a social event that would also help with the problem of cultural integration. McPhee mentioned that a new faculty group used to meet and that the meeting's purpose was mostly social, with lunch provided. Goodnough said that some sort of brown bag session could be organized; people would simply eat and talk about their Morris experiences. Bonnie Tipcke added that staff, who are sometimes overlooked in acclimation programs, should be included in these sessions. LeAnn proposed a program akin to "Asking the Big Questions," which would be both a social *and* an informational event. McPhee suggested that alumni be involved in the welcoming program, as many faculty/staff don't often have a chance to interact with them.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Holly Gruntner