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Campus Assembly minutes 01/31/2013

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Campus Assembly Minutes
Jan. 31, 2013

I. Chancellor's Remarks

Chancellor Johnson gave the following remarks:

Ice. ☒

Resource Allocation Review Process: in its final phases—thanks to Jon and Brook, who will report on progress a little later in the agenda. The result of this work is one tool that will be useful now and later as we continue to examine our budgets, our resources and their allocation, and how these align with our mission as a public liberal arts college. Our process has been both more comprehensive and more inclusive than any process that I'm aware of and that's not to say that it is without challenges. Most recently, the evaluation team and the “uber” group, have been instrumental in not only conducting the analysis but also in identifying concerns. (This is not to dismiss the work of the teams that defined and outlined this process, going back to the blue ribbon task force from several years ago.) The reports, the evaluation, the responses to that evaluation and the thoughtful responses from those who have been involved in this process now provide material for the prioritization team as it continues its work and makes its recommendations to me.

Budget process for FY 2014: The University has presented its biennial budget proposal to the governor. That proposal includes a 2.5% salary pool increase and a promise to not raise tuition for two years, with the expectation that in exchange the state would then provide the University with biennial funds that would offset these costs. There are other provisions as well. As I think you know, the governor has accepted that portion of the U's recommendation—to hold the line on tuition increases-- but we don't yet know what the legislature will recommend.

UMM's annual budget meeting is scheduled for March 8th. We received our formal budget instructions a few weeks ago—43 pages long and Colleen Miller has prepared a five page summary of these instructions for our use. Finance committee has them as well as Vice Chancellors—they're also available to anyone who wants to review them on line I believe. All units of the university have a required reallocation for FY 14 that amounts to .8% of the FY 13 adjusted O&M/State Specials/Tuition allocation base in the approved budget. For us—the specific dollar amount we're given is \$291,000 reduction. We will have to demonstrate how we arrive at the reduction at our budget meeting on March 8th. As you know if you've following the news, there is great attention being paid to the U's expenditures on administrative positions and we are instructed to attempt to reduce administrative costs as part of this process. In addition to the required reduction, we have a number of other budget challenges and constraints and we are in the midst of determining how we will meet our budget goals and are exploring a variety of strategies to do this. My goal is to meet our budget challenges in a prudent and sustainable way, and with the least disruption possible to our regular operations and without compromising the student experience.

Community of Scholars: will take place on the Morris campus tomorrow and Friday. Thanks to all of you who are taking part. 80 students and their families on campus tomorrow; 120 students on Saturday. This is a big event for our campus and for the Morris community. Those of you who have participated before know that this is a wonderfully affirming event in almost every way that I can think of. The chance to meet these very smart and accomplished young people and their families is really something and for me is one of the best reminders of why we do the work we do. Bryan and the admissions staff as well as a dedicated group of faculty and staff members have assisted in advance of the event by reading hundreds of student essays and by thinking of really challenging questions to present to these young people—both in the individual interviews and in the group sessions. So if you're doing this for the first time or if you've been part of this for each of the seven years that we've held the event--thank you.

II. For Action. From the Steering Committee. Minutes from 11/14/12 Campus Assembly were approved as presented.

Under the discussion about the WLA proposal in the comments section the bullet point about transfer curriculum should be phrased as a question instead of a statement. The Scholastic Committee is looking into transfer issues.

For the WLA proposal, it was approved unanimously – is there any way we can we add that to the minutes? It was determined that it could not. The suggestion was made to have the Chancellor announce unanimous decisions as such, so it could be included in the minutes.

Minutes passed unanimously with the above changes.

III. Old Business

A. For Information. Update on Resource Allocation Review.

Brook Miller and Jon Anderson updated the group on the process so far. They said a total of 176 programs have been submitted, scored and reviewed. The Phase III group is meeting and reviewing reports and working out "magic formula."

Jon Anderson returned to his seat leaving the rest of the discussion to Brook Miller.

Brook offered big thanks to Jon who has really helped figure out what needs to be done. The different groups that have met during this process represent a diverse group with membership from all areas of campus including students. There has been lots of expertise to draw upon.

Phase III's charge is to make recommendations to the Chancellor on 4 categories: addition, maintenance, reduction and elimination. Prior to doing so the Phase II "uber" group to discover the key messages to think about in Phase III. In general Phase II determined:

- Programs are over worked and extremely productive.

- There was a criticism of using the data for making decisions about types of investment; challenge is to make decisions based upon data but may look at different things. There was hope that the 3 areas could be reconciled for comparison, but that's just not possible for admin and student services in no small part because the rubric was designed to evaluate academic groups and was only moderately adapted for the administrative and student services groups.
- Main principle for going forward is to proceed with caution. We acknowledge there are some limitations to the data and need to make consensus decisions that may also include qualitative interpretation.

Please let Brook know if any additional feedback or input.

The timeline indicates that the final report needs to be completed by Feb. 11, 2013, but that will be a challenge, so may take a little longer.

There were questions about what happens after Phase III has made its recommendations. Brook indicated the recommendations will have further review and consultation. Jacquie said there will be follow-up in multiple ways, and RAR won't be used for FY14 budget. Brook also indicated the report will most likely go through governance, although the details had not been confirmed. Another question was asked if this was a 0-sum issue. Brook indicated it was not.

IV. New Business

A. For Action: From the Curriculum Committee. Curricular changes

Bart Finzel introduced the changes, which affect four areas with two changes increasing credits and two new Honors courses and a change in the Honors Capstone project. Additionally Sports Management made minor requirement changes to mirror major requirements.

Changes passed unanimously.

B. For information. From the Dean's Office. 2017-2018 Academic Calendar

Bart Finzel introduced the issue by reminding us that it is mandated to present the calendar. He worked with staff to develop it, and it is very much like the previous calendar with a Monday study day for final exam week. In the spring it changes the start from Tuesday to Wednesday after MLK day, which would allow us to have the same number of days as the fall schedule and very similar number of days of the week

Some concerns were raised about the later start in Spring semester including reducing the number of class days, even if it would make the semesters equal. There were also concerns with attendance for MLK Day of Service. If students don't need to be here until Wednesday, there might be a decrease in the number of students who would be willing to come back on Monday to volunteer. Another question was asked about designating both Saturday and Monday as study days to avoid students being required to attend events over the weekend before finals.

The calendar will be on the next agenda for a vote, and will then go on to SCEP.

C. For Action. From the Functions & Awards Committee. UMM policy on naming parts of buildings.

Engin Sungur introduced the issue. He explained the policy needs to be reviewed periodically. The changes asked for would make voting more consistent with the current Constitution.

There was a question about whether or not voting could be done electronically through email or if it had to be during Campus Assembly. The answer was voting needs to happen during Campus Assembly.

Motion passed unanimously.

V. Committee Reports

Scholastic Committee heard a report about Admissions from Bryan Herrmann. If you have questions you can review minutes in the Digital Well. This year's issues have had lots of overlap with curriculum, so there was some shared meetings. Both committees have talked about IC class completion concerns. A decision will hopefully be reached spring. The committee has addressed online foreign language testing for international students. Following passage of the WLA requirement, the committee reviewed the course requirements with the transfer curriculum, and it will meet the requirements. There have also been lots of academic integrity issues, so please report violations in 2 weeks of the infraction and inform classes of expectations.

Faculty and P&A Affairs Committee reported the updated 2013 faculty salary report is ready and will be sent out soon. Roger Wareham offered a word of caution when it comes out because the most recent figures are from 2011-2012, so they will not reflect the infusion of funds until next year.

Student Affairs approved a motion to place PaperCut printers in the res halls. The students behind this effort have been in consultation with Jim Hall. Computing Services will go to tech fee to buy new printers for each resident hall.

Finance Committee is looking at budget preparation. They also met and heard from Bryan for enrollment projections and revenue.

Planning Committee is finishing work on the comparison group for Morris to replace current Morris 14. The committee's recommendations will come to Campus Assembly this semester. Once that work is done the committee will move on to exploring recommendations from other committees concerning the implementation of some of the strategic plan.

Membership Committee made recommendations for RAR Phases II and III. They are also going to review constitutional charges for the committee to think about what else might need to be done in addition to filling committee openings, specifically exploring review of administrators and how the process will work.

VI. All University Reports

SCEP: Discussion continues on the opt-in/opt-out alternatives for releasing questions on student evaluations since the opt-in numbers are poor. There is some interest on SCEP to make it an opt-out system, but there would need to be some changes so the questions would be about the course and not the professor specifically. If this is of interest to UMM students they need to be vocal about it because there is little interest in the TC. The committee is also looking at issues of grade compression/distribution being posted on the web. They are currently using TC data, but not UMM, but if asked will have to because of the Freedom of Information Act. There is some interest in exploring MOOCs coming from the U. If you are interested in more details ask Nic McPhee.

Membership Committee offered its thanks to all who volunteered to serve on an all-U committee.

VII. Announcements

Report on External Professional Activities are due soon. Please fill out the form as soon as possible. If you have any questions, ask Roger Wareham.

Feb. 7 is Support the U Day. There is a little bus for the Regents to attend at noon. For students going, there is U policy of excused absence for attendance.

AISES annual regional conference is being held on campus Feb. 28-March 1.

God of Carnage opens next Thursday. Tickets are available online at tickets.umn.edu.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.