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Campus Assembly minutes 09/25/2017

Campus Assembly

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I. **Chancellor's Remarks**.

"Welcome, everyone, to our first Campus Assembly meeting of the 2017-2018 academic year. This meeting marks the beginning of my first full year at Morris, and as I noted in my faculty and staff convocation remarks last month, this promises to be a very busy and consequential year – filled with several large projects to be undertaken over and above our usual business. More details on this further down today's agenda. In the meantime, the start of the new year is always a time to look forward and I am excited for all of the work we will do together this year.

I have been reflecting on my first few months here in preparation for the inauguration this Friday, and while I will speak at some length (but not too much length!) about this on Friday, I do want to pause to make note in this body of how pleased I am to have been invited to become a member of the Morris community. This is an exceptional institution filled with people who are committed and passionate about living our mission and providing a rich and meaningful experience for our students. I feel so fortunate to be here.

Finally, I would like to introduce Dr. Michelle Stewart, who will be with us this academic year as an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow. In her other life, Michelle is the vice president of academic affairs at Lane College in Tennessee.

The Fellows Program is designed to strengthen institutional and leadership capacity in American higher education. Hosting Michelle will help us to help her prepare for her future roles as a university leader. At the same time we benefit from her expertise and her perspectives from service at other universities. Michelle will be spending a significant amount of time around campus meeting with faculty and staff to understand Morris' strengths and how we are working to meet our challenges. I hope that you will all join me in welcoming Michelle Stewart.

We have a very full agenda for today's meeting, so let's get to it!"

II. **For Action. From the Steering Committee.** Minutes from 5/2/17 Campus Assembly meeting were approved as presented. **Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

III. **Old Business**.

    A. For Information and discussion. From the Steering Committee. Update on Community Hour.

Nic McPhee, Chair of Steering Committee, reported that after consultation with the campus community, the plan is to move forward with an electronic vote shortly. As a reminder, the community hour will take place between 11:40am and 12:40pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the academic year. This means the daily academic schedule would be as follows:

8:00-9:40am
9:50-11:30am

11:40am-12:40pm   --- Community Hour
12:50-2:30pm
2:40-4:20pm
4:30 - 6:10pm

The intent is to get his ready before the next academic year. The community hour can be used for assembly meetings, committee meetings, division meetings, etc. The expectation is there will be a group of people that will help coordinate the use of this time. The group will work together to sort out the schedule of events.

B. **For Information**. From the Scholastic Committee. Update on "Multi-I" registration.

Roland Guyotte, Chair of Scholastic Committee, reminded assembly members of the reason for the policy. It is critical for students to establish a relationship with a Morris faculty adviser and identify a Morris academic plan before studying at another campus as a Morris degree-seeking student. Multi-I students are not assigned an adviser at the visiting campus and will have limited access to Morris student support resources. Nic McPhee added the plan is to move forward with an electronic vote on this as well.

IV.   **New Business**.

A. **For Action**. From the Membership Committee. Committee replacements and upcoming elections.

Matt Zaske, member of the Membership Committee, presented the attached committee roster noting that there are a few positions that have been vacated and need to be replaced or re-elected. We elect most of the replacements within our constituencies. MCSA recently held their elections and will be approved at forum tonight. **Motion to approve committee roster approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.**

B. **For Information and Discussion**. From the Steering Committee.

HLC
Strategic Visioning and Planning
Other projects

Nic McPhee reported that are many important projects on our plate for this year: some are externally driven; many have tight timelines; most are very broad, touching many areas of campus life; and few fit neatly into a single box in our campus governance structure, but most have meaningful interactions with multiple committees.

Steering is working to coordinate the complex interactions between these projects and our governance structure. We met with committee chairs earlier this semester to give chairs an opportunity to indicate which projects they feel they have input on and/or would particularly like to be kept informed about. We are devoting much of this meeting to having relevant point people briefly summarize projects, the current state of play, and take questions. We encourage people to contribute to these projects however it makes most sense. Committees and their

members can and should contact task forces and writing groups if you have ideas or concerns relevant to that body.

Lastly, we encourage committees to consider delaying as much possible work that isn't immediately pressing in an effort to free up more time and energy for individuals to devote to these projects. As an example, Steering has chosen to *not* pursue the question of committee elimination this year. When classes ended in May I thought that might well be our most significant project this year. Given the developments over the summer, however, our committee now feels that it would be counterproductive to have people and committees doing this important work, wondering if Steering was sharpening our knives in secret, waiting to pounce on unsuspecting committees. Our experiences this year may in fact provide valuable information for a later incarnation of Steering to bring to bear on this question.

Higher Learning Commission: Melissa Bert and Rebecca Dean

Morris's last accreditation visit was in 2010, and our next "comprehensive evaluation" visit will be in academic year 2019-20. I'm going to talk to you today about two (the assurance argument and the quality initiative) of the components of our accreditation process for the Higher Learning Commission, or HLC, which is UMM's accrediting body. The components include: the assurance argument, quality initiative, a federal compliance review, a student opinion survey, and an on-site visit by a team of peer reviewers.

Let's start with the assurance argument: The assurance argument, which has replaced the "self study", emphasizes the collection of evidence to support our argument that we have met each of the five criterion set by the HLC. For those of you interested, the criteria include: (1) Mission, (2) Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct, (3) Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support, (4) Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement, and (5) Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness. Work teams are being created for all five HLC criteria for accreditation, and there will also be an overarching assurance argument writing team.

The HLC peer reviewers can target specific "areas of focus" to dig deeper into during their visit. After reviewing UMM's previous reports and attending the HLC conference this past spring, there are two that stand out for me that I'd like to mention. The first is one that we've been talking about for a long time, which is the assessment of student learning. Rebecca Dean will discuss that in more depth in a few minutes. The next is UMM's financial sustainability. The visiting team will want to know if we have the financial capacity to meet our campus's mission and goals, and if we don't, we'll need to be able to show that we have a plan in place to address these issues. They want to know what strategies we're implementing to ensure our continued success and how we'll measure the effectiveness of those strategies.

Okay, so on to the Quality Initiative. As an institution, we are now part of what is called the "Open Pathway," which is one of three options for reaffirmation of accreditation. What is unique about this path is that our improvement component allows us to select a project that meets a current need or aspiration identified by our institution.

The Quality Initiative is an institution-wide project that attempts to address a need on campus. The QI is determined to be successful based on the seriousness of the commitment and the level of effort (at the conference they talked a lot about "genuine effort") put forth, not if the

institution fails or succeeds at its initiative. Morris's QI proposal was submitted in August 2017 and the final report is due in Summer 2019.

As a reminder (and for those of you that are not aware), after about a year of campus discussion the decision was made to focus our QI on the first year experience, with a particular interest on work that may positively impact first year retention, persistence and success. As many of you know, first year retention has long been an area of focused discussion and campus action. Since 2004, substantial investments have been made to better support students in their transition to college. Staff and faculty have worked hard to bolster first year student engagement, success, and persistence.

Starting this semester, three action teams will begin work on the Quality Initiative. The three actions teams and a short description of their work are:

Assessment of Retention Initiatives.
This team will conduct a systematic, integrated assessment of UMM's first year retention initiatives.

Fostering Student Mental Health and Wellbeing.
This team will create, pilot, and evaluate a new mental health and wellbeing framework at UMM.

High-Impact Practices in the First Year.
This team will work to make participation in High- Impact Practices more explicit, available, and accessible to first year students.

Teams will include faculty and staff from a broad range of divisions and offices and current students, and will also broadly consult and collaborate with other community members. Existing campus governance committees (including the Assessment of Student Learning Committee, Student Affairs Committee, Academic Support Services Committee, and Multi-Ethnic Experience Committee) will be asked to provide input and to take action as appropriate on proposed frameworks, assessment results, and programmatic recommendations for each of the three areas of focus.

The QI work will contribute to both the strategic visioning and planning process as well as the assurance argument work beginning this fall.

Strategic visioning and planning: Michelle Behr

As outlined in an open forum last May and also addressed at the opening convocation this fall, Michelle believes the strategic visioning and planning will play out in three stages: (1) a series of readings and conversations that will have us look outside ourselves to the current and— insofar as we can envision them, future— realities of American higher education; (2) using those readings and conversations as context, and our mission, history, and culture as bedrock, thinking about what and who Morris as an institution aspires to be ten years from now; and (3) developing and/or bolstering strategic and tactical structures, processes, and plans that help us to get from where we are now to our vision of where we want to be. This endeavor should be

both forward-looking and forward thinking. And it should result in a living document, one that builds in evaluation strategies and timelines and keeps us all accountable.

You should have received an email announcing the launch of a Canvas site that outlines the readings, schedule and discussion items for six community forums that will be held this semester. Michelle is working with the Membership and Consultative Committees to find facilitators for the six discussions. There will be note takers at the forums and those notes will be added to the Canvas site. Membership will be distributing a Google form soliciting volunteers to help facilitate the discussions. After the six conversations, there will be a community forum in early spring to wrap up the conversation and make sense of what we've learned. Once we agree upon a vision, we will need to talk about what kinds of strategies, tactics and plans to help us actualize what we want to become. She encouraged the campus community to volunteer and participate.

Other projects

Intellectual disabilities: Janet Ericksen

The MN Legislature has charged us with figuring out how UMM could offer a 2-year inclusive academic program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By mid-January of 2018, the Board of Regents has to submit to the Legislature a report that explains what such a program would require and how it would work—but first we have to write that report.

The chancellor and I as well as Sandy Olson-Loy, Lisa Bevevino, and Tammy Berberi have been gathering information on the topic, primarily from two private programs along these lines, one called Minnesota Life College and one at Bethel University (both are in the Cities). Bethel's seems to be most in line with what the legislature had in mind for us, and the enormously helpful director of that program explained to us just how much in the way of both planning and people would be needed for us to initiate anything comparable. We will continue to gather information—there's an organization called THINK COLLEGE, with useful resources, and I talked last week with the Director of the Institute on Community Integration (David Johnson) in the College of Education and Human Development on the Twin Cities campus; he's put me in touch with the person at Central Lakes College (community college in Brainerd) who recently implemented a similar program there.

So far, what's clearest is how little I knew about such programs and how much we'd need professional assistance were we to initiate one at Morris. If you have resources for or interest in helping create the report, do, please, let us know. We'll be working on it all fall.

Systemwide Enrollment: Sandy Olson-Loy

Many of you participated in focus groups when Stephen Lehmkuhle and Rebecca Ropers-Huilman visited campus to develop a first ever system strategic plan. That plan was developed and adopted by the Board of Regents in June of 2017. The number one priority from that plan was enrollment management. President Kaler has asked us to develop a systemwide enrollment management strategy that will enhance student success, increase retention of students within the system, maximize the number of Minnesota students served by the system, and meet the needs of Minnesota communities. That report was due by September 1, 2017. A presentation

was made to the Board of Regents of the preliminary draft recommendations. We haven't heard back yet but we envision the continued work will include a number of people on campus.

President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct: Sandy Olson-Loy

In response to a charge letter from President Kaler on the spring of 2017, we are committed to the following: 1) required faculty and staff training; 2) student education and engagement; 3) public health/awareness campaign; 4) President's committee to prevent sexual misconduct; and 5) evaluation. We've already been doing some of this work and will be talking with the Faculty and P&A and Student Affairs Committees.

Capital Campaign: Susan Schmidgall

Susan reported that the Capital Campaign publicly launched on September 8. We have been in campaign mode for the last six years in the quiet and planning phase. This campaign will be 10 years long with a system goal of $4B and a UMM goal of $21M. We are 75% of the way to our goal. We will be seeking philanthropic support in four broad areas: (1) to provide scholarships and fund employment and engagement opportunities for students; (2) endow professorships; (3) expand and improve our physical space to support student learning, faculty research, and regional outreach; and (4) invest in our EcoStation and other initiatives in support of environmental education, research, and preservation in our region.

Budget and Audit: Bryan Herrmann

Bryan reported that because we've had a decline in continuing new students, we will have a budget realignment. We have begun this work much earlier this year. We have to prepare a budget for presentation to central administration in March and we have to submit a balanced budget for the fiscal year.

Every five years the university does an internal audit. This will happen the first two weeks of November. You will be contacted if there is information you need to provide.

V.   **Campus Committee Reports.**

On behalf of Jennifer Rothchild, Chair of the Multi-Ethnic Experience Committee, Hilda Ladner reported the committee has been discussing the charge of the committee and plans to broaden to include equity and inclusion. If anyone has concerns about the campus climate, please contact Jennifer or any member of the committee.

VI.   **All University Reports.**

Jen Goodnough, UMM representative and chair of Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP), reported that following up on the work that Judy Korn has done on preferred name, there will not be any action take at this time. The hope is to get broader by in. Upcoming topics will include grading and transcript policy.

VII.   **Announcements.**

    A. General announcements.

None.

VIII.   **<u>Adjournment.</u>**

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.