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Finance Committee

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10-31-2013

Finance minutes 10/31/2013

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Recommended Citation

Finance Committee, "Finance minutes 10/31/2013" (2013). *Finance Committee*. 41.
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UMM Finance Committee Minutes

10.31.2013

Members Present: Mary Zosel, Sam Fettig, Michael Korth, Dennis Stewart, Sara Haugen, Pieranna Garavaso, Timna Wyckoff, Lowell Rasmussen, Ellery Wealot, Jayne Blodgett, Brad Deane, Laura Thielke

Members Absent: Gwen Rudney

Guests: Colleen Miller, Melissa Wroblewski-Note Taker

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes:

Corrections were requested to the minutes from 10-17-13. Committee approved the amended minutes.

2. Student Fees:

Colleen presented on the student fees for our campus. She went through the estimated cost of attendance and what items made up the balance, then went on to explain the course/class fees and miscellaneous term fees. Colleen referenced the handout made available at the beginning of the meeting. The handout included the Board of Regents Policy and excerpts from the University of Minnesota FY14 Operating Budget. The full operating budget document had been distributed to committee members earlier in electronic form.

In the policy section, Colleen described the different fees in the University system, and then directed us to examples of: Campus Fees (p.16-17), Course/Class Fees (p.45), Miscellaneous Fees (p.56), and Student Services Fees (p.68). All fees that are charged by the University have to go through the approval of the Board of Regents with the exception of 'pass through' fees where the University does not retain the funds. A request is made to administrators prior to the March compact meeting asking departments on campus if they have a request to change or add a fee for the next fiscal year. In March, the requested changes or additions to fees are included with Compact materials which then go on for the Board of Regents to review and approve. Currently fees are being heavily scrutinized due to the tuition freeze in place. It was also mentioned that FY15 fees may be scrutinized even more.

- Why are there such variances in the different system campus' campus fee?
 - We do not know what the other system campuses campus fee is comprised of and cannot explain the reason for variations.
- Why is it that Art and Music have the most course/class fees?
 - Pieranna took this question and stated that there has been a historical deficit in the music and arts department. At first music professors were teaching overloads without being paid. Then when they hired more personnel to teach the students they had to pay the University mileage rate. Everything together was costing more than what the department had to spend. Currently the departments have lowered the mileage rate they pay for music instructors that travel to campus and they are working to get out of

deficit and find a system that works for providing music lessons. Art fees are for the consumables they use in the course.

- Is Financial Aid available for these additional fees?
 - A student can use Financial Aid money to cover these fees but they are not given financial aid based on specific course fees. If they didn't have the additional course fees though, they would be able to spend the money on something different.

Michael then mentioned that at one time the University used to charge different tuition rates for different programs. The Board of Regents and the University then decided that a campus should charge just one rate for undergraduate tuition. Some departments charge fees to help subsidize the cost of the courses but tuition is being paid to cover the cost of those courses. There is no good answer as to whether it is right to charge additional fees for courses instead of increasing tuition. Lowell then went on to mention that fees are kind of cyclical. Fees go up and up, over a number of years, until they get to a tipping point; then they are reviewed to see where to go from there.

- What do students think about the course/class fees charged here at UMM?
 - Sam answered that most of the fees are self-explanatory, but the course/class fees are more ambiguous and it is not as well known exactly what the fee is paying for.
 - Ellery mentioned that the students were polled last year on course/class fees and from what he heard from other students is that there was tension in relation to the music fees.

The music major cannot survive without the music lessons and this is where the question lies. What is the right thing to do in this instance?

Time ran out and it was mentioned that the committee may want to continue the topic of course/class fees again another day.

The committee will next meet one week from today. First we will hear from Maddy Maxeiner and then we will return to the topic of the contingency reserve.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting is November 7th in the Moccasin Flower Room at 8am.