

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Finance Committee

Campus Governance

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10-26-2015

### Finance minutes 10/26/2015

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# UMM Finance Committee Minutes

## 10.26.15

Members Present: Dennis Stewart, Michael Korth, Kerri Barnstuble, Pieranna Garavaso, Jess Larson, Mary Zosel, Jayne Blodgett, Laura Thielke, Jong-Min Kim, Mark Logan, Rachel Brockamp

Members Absent: Bryan Herrmann, Elsie Wilson

Guests: Bart Finzel, Colleen Miller, Melissa Wroblewski -Note Takers

### Agenda:

#### 1. Approval of September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 minutes:

No corrections or additions were made to the September 28<sup>th</sup> minutes; they were approved and seconded as is.

#### 2. Update on the W.E.L.L.: Presented by Bart Finzel

Bart introduced the program by passing out a handout derived from an unfunded Title III grant proposal to the group that showed the "Project Organization Chart" on the top, and a "Timetable of Student Work Opportunity Creation, Cost and Institutionalization" on the bottom of the W.E.L.L. Program. Bart went on to explain that the proposed W.E.L.L. has many moving pieces, but the main two pieces are: 1. The Career Pathways Program, and 2. The Meaningful Work Program. Some elements of the program are being piloted this year. Other elements are contingent on securing funding.

The Career Pathways Program is for freshman in their first and second semesters. Those freshman enrolled in the program would meet with a peer mentor on a regular basis early in their time at Morris and follow that with a series of career exercises. The Meaningful Work Program is the second half of the WELL program and is an effort to ensure all students have an opportunity to engage in meaningful work while on campus. The Meaningful Work portion is to match upper classmen with working positions on or off campus that would provide them experience in the career they are intending to pursue in the future.

The WELL programs grant application proposed \$450,000 per year to support all the moving parts of the program. They were not awarded funding this fiscal year. Funds requested would have gone to support new positions in the Career Center and a new Work Coordinator to match students with a job related to the career they are pursuing. Funds would also be used to pay the upper classman who would be peer mentors to the freshman in this program.

Currently this program is being piloted this year: 67 freshman were eligible to participate of which about 40 are actively engaged. The students who are participating will receive \$250 for each section of the WELL program they complete. For this pilot program, they are using one times funding from the Campus Fees collected on campus. Longer term, Bart mentioned the possibility of looking into changing the way Merit Aid is distributed on this campus. Other funding received this year from the the Morris Student Support Services Grant and the Morris NASS Project will increase opportunities for meaningful work on campus.

Bart then asked for questions:

- Merit Aid, what do you mean by changing the distribution?
  - o Over half of our UMM students receive some merit aid funding. One idea is to make some fraction of aid (or some fraction of new aid) dependent on students engaging in the WELL program.
  
- Title III Grant, will we be applying for this again?
  - o Bart informed the committee that they had a very strong grant written this year and that they were very close to getting the grant, so yes, UMM will be applying when they open it up for submissions again (it is unknown when they will start accepting Title III Grant applications again at this point).
  - o Bart did mention also that the NASS Program did receive Title III funding and because of this, if the WELL would have received funds also, the decision would have had to be made which program to fund since we can only have one Title III grant at a time. The NASS received a \$2 million grant over 5 years.
  
- Faculty may be more on board with this program if there was a guarantee that they would receive 'x' hours per week from a student worker. Would this be a possibility?
- Ideally, the program would allow any student on campus a work opportunity. Faculty would then know that a student they might ask to work with them would be funded. There will be many funding sources for the student salary portion of this program, but the source of funding should not be a determining factor.
- How is 'Success' defined as for the WELL Program?
  - o Increased retention, not as many students "adrift" in the career path, and giving students greater bearing. (*Warning: by doing career planning, some students may find out that they don't need a liberal arts education or they need to attend a different school for their education.*)

Bart then made the comment that there has been research suggests that if students work on campus, they are more likely to stay at that college, therefore increasing retention rates. One goal is to connect lessons learned in the classroom to career skills and knowledge needed in a profession. That is what the WELL Program is trying to provide.

### 3. Consultative Committee's request:

Per an email forwarded to the Finance Committee from the Consultative Committee, we have been asked to let the Consultative committee know if any of the concerns mentioned in the email were a concern of people in this Finance Committee and if the committee as a whole would like to address the concerns and report back to the Consultative committee. The concerns revolve around the service workload of people on the campus

The Finance Committee chose not to discuss this as a committee and if there is anyone who has concerns, please contact Jayne Blodgett and/or Julie Eckerle.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be November 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:10 pm in the Moccasin Flower Room.