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Student Affairs minutes 11/04/2005

Student Affairs Committee

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**UMM Student Services Committee
Minutes – November 4, 2005**

Present: Dave Nelson, Carla Riley, Michael Eble, Sara Haugen, Nick Peterson, Judy Riley,

Absent: Jennifer Herrmann, Julie Pelletier, Heather Pennie, Katie Clark, Nate Hilfiker, Gail Hockert, Dave Swenson, Joe Alia, Adam Yust

I. Minutes

MOTION: (Judy, Dave N.) To approve the October 7, 2005 minutes as written.

VOTE: Unanimous.

II. Strategic Positioning

Chair Nick Petersen read UMM's mission statement as background for beginning the discussion about feedback for the Strategic Positioning Task Force. Petersen asked the group to consider what each member would like student services to look like at UMM in the future, and what areas of UMM student services need to be evaluated.

Members would like the task force to consider hours of operation for student services on campus. The bookstore, business office, and financial aid office were among the sites students mentioned as offices students would like to see have longer hours. This was especially relevant since Morris businesses also have restricted business hours. Students need places to hang out during late night hours.

Another topic mentioned was the lack of effectiveness of the current communication methods. UMM needs to re-evaluate communicating via email networks, especially when communicating with students. Students are typically inundated with email and rely more on gathering information from sources such as Facebook. UMM should consider more up-to-date methods of electronic communication. A member mentioned that External Relations planned to address this issue in upcoming meetings.

Students mentioned the ever-increasing number of student organizations at UMM, increasing while the student population has seen a slight decline. This is problematic when making decisions about disbursing AFRC funds. Also, students don't have time to be effectively active with the number of organizations with which they are typically becoming involved. It was noted that this seems to be a national trend; groups are tending to branch off and specialize rather than finding ways to work within an existing group. UMM should look at requirements to be a registered student organization. For example, could UMM require a number of active members to be considered a registered student organization? Could advisors encourage students to look at ways of focusing on common interests or working as a subgroup of a current organization? Fewer organizations might significantly improve the quality of the various student organization activities, and thus the student experience at UMM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 A.M.

Submitted Melody Veenendaal