University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Consultative Committee   Campus Governance

2-17-2010

Consultative minutes 02/17/2010

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Consultative Committee
Minutes for 17 February 2010

Present: Nancy Carpenter (faculty/PA; ex officio), Brad Deane (faculty/PA), Zak Forde (student), Paula O'Loughlin (chair; faculty/PA), Sydney Sweep (student), Matt Privratsky (student), Jane Kill (staff), Laura Thielke (staff).

Absent: Jon Anderson (faculty/PA), Attina Earl (student), Ron Kubik (staff), Sharon Van Eps (staff), Jennifer Zych-Herrmann (faculty/PA; on leave)

I. Minutes from 10 February meeting were approved.

II. Followup discussion on 10 February meeting with Dean Contant. Reflections on the meeting with the Dean provoked discussion of the role of Consultative Committee in fostering campus communication. The following issues were most central to the discussion.

1. Some concern was expressed that the Dean was not receptive to the comments that Consultative had gathered from the campus community. We agreed that although Consultative needs to bring such comments to the Dean, it is also the tradition of the committee to redirect comments and inquiries to more appropriate and relevant venues when possible.
2. Has the administration been responsive to advice from Consultative? The evidence here is mixed. Recently the administration has initiated meetings that have been consistent with concerns raised by Consultative (these include movement on the faculty research award and discussions of the SUFI agreement), but other recommendations made by the committee to the Chancellor and Dean (such as the regular dashboard update to the campus) have had no visible effect.
3. Communication on campus is in part compromised by a longstanding distrust of the administration which predates the current administration, and which the current Chancellor and Dean might not be able to overcome.
4. Some hope was expressed that Consultative might become more proactive in fostering campus communication instead of serving merely as a conduit for complaints and concerns. For instance, Consultative might design a model of the dashboard update itself and present it to the administration instead of calling for administrators to work it out themselves.

III. Input on Blue Ribbon Committee's list of strategies. Consultative discussed the list of strategic areas in which campus programs and practices might be enriched, added, reduced, restructured, or eliminated. Members of the committee raised the following ideas:

1. Charge the Physical Plant to investigate and reduce the many practices and procedures on campus that waste energy. The campus is capable of much greater energy efficiency, which would be more consistent with our self-identification as a green campus.
2. Facilities might be better and more efficiently used in the summer months.
3. Work more aggressively to eliminate unnecessary administrative meetings.
4. Propose a set meeting time each week during which classes would not meet.
5. Harness expertise on campus to create a business incubator.

6. Regularize reviews of administrators to advance excellence.

IV. Tech Fee Followup. Consultative will attempt to secure a written result from the Chancellor regarding the resolution of the Tech Fee dispute.

Respectfully submitted by Brad Deane.