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## Student Affairs minutes 10/20/2006

Student Affairs Committee

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**UMM Student Services Committee**  
**Minutes – October 20, 2006**

Present: Dave Roberts, Adam Yust, Brittany Jablonsky, LeAnn Hedquist, Sara Haugen, David Swenson, Mary Zosel

Not Present: Michael Eble, Carla Riley, Gail Hockert, Joe Alia, Corey Phelps, Ronnie White Mountain

Guests: Brian Herrmann, Paula O'Laughlin

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 am, though there was not a quorum present.

Dave moved discussion ahead to item 2 which would not require action by the committee. Brian and Paula passed out a handout about their UMM spring student experience celebration. Brian explained their plan for this day of celebration in the spring. The goal is to encourage students to learn about opportunities that they may want to participate in later and share the success stories of students who have done them. Paula added that for first year students who maybe considering leaving this would be an excellent tool to get them excited about UMM. Paula also noted that having this in the middle of the week will allow the community to come together similar to the event held during semester conversion. Dave shared that this has come up in the first year experience committee as an opportunity to build community in the spring. Paula also noted that this could be an opportunity to consolidate existing programs in the spring to increase attendance at them and free up some of the busy time in the Spring. Dave R. questioned if this would be new things or just consolidating old things. Brittany asked about space use of the campus for this, would it all be in the student center. Paula and Brian agreed that part of the purpose would be to spread events out around the campus and encourage people to visit areas they don't regularly spend time in. Mary asked if there would be some sort of class requirement for students to participate since classes would be canceled. Paula explained that there is no sure way to enforce this but faculty some sort of wrap up at the end. Brian said they would like to have some sort of event at the end to keep everyone involved at the end, perhaps a picnic or banquet, with music. Mary suggested that maybe we could even have faculty and staff involved in serving students at a picnic. Dave R. asked if there were any down sides to this proposal? Brian stated that the only concern they had heard would be how this may effect some of the science lab classes. Paula shared that it would be a logistical challenge and that it may require some time to get all involved to buy into this new concept rather than have their own special event. Her hope, however, is that it would be effective at bringing people together in the spring semester. Dave R. asked if thought had been given to inviting admitted students. Brian thought that this would be a good idea and suggested that it could be good for parents to come to as well. Dave R. noted that on their proposal described this as a afternoon of full day, what had they thought about this. He suggested that perhaps a half day could be better and labs could be moved to 8 am to help alleviate faculty concern. Adam suggested that there should be a good name to draw people in. Brian agreed and they are trying to come up with some things. Dave R. noted that since

it had been compared to the Jamboree we should avoid the negative criticism that that program has received as being too informal. Paula concurred and stated that there would be no change to the requirements each of the involved programs have in place currently. Paula asked the students if they were not involved would they attend? LeAnn stated that it could be difficult but if students who were involved invited their peers and friends they would be willing to go. Brittany concurred and felt that if she were on campus and saw stuff happening she would get involved. Brittany questioned if this would really help convince students who are considering leaving to stay. Paula noted that from her experience advising, has show that many students feel that there is just not enough to do or do not get roped into the right things to make their experience positive. She has had great success through working with students one on one to find other opportunities that they have missed and that this could help point these things out to first year students on a larger scale. LeAnn asked whether they had thought about combining Brian shared that each of the events being looked at for this suffers from low attendance due to too many other things happening and this could help everything. Mary wanted to make sure that the retention group thought about ORLs role in this and wanted to make sure that they got the RAs involved in this since they are one of the best ways to get first year students involved through floor activities. Dave R. asked if the student leader banquet was a good fit for this since it seems like a specialized event. Sara and Dave S. explained the history of the banquet. Dave suggested that perhaps presenting the awards at a larger picnic would make them more prestigious because they would be presented before a larger group of their peers. Adam explained that this may make the process of the award less formal. Brian and Paula agreed that this could use more thought. Dave R. asked where this proposal is going from here. Brian stated that they want to talk with a few more committees and if there is general support the administration will move forward with it for this spring. It may go to campus assembly that is still undetermined. Dave R. suggested that not taking it to campus assembly may result in opposition and encouraged that it go to campus assembly. Mary encouraged them to try this if it does not succeed at least we tried, and as long as it does reasonably well that would be encouragement to continue it the next year. Brian and Paula would like to have an endorsement from the committee, but with out quorum the committee could not take formal action. The issue will be continued to the next meeting.

#### New Business-

Dave S. handed out the proposed survey of student interest that the Office of Student Activities is developing. The committee had several positive suggestions that Dave took note of and will sue of further develop the instrument.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am