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Campus Assembly minutes 02/28/2018

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Campus Assembly Meeting
February 28, 2018

I. Chancellor's Remarks.

"It's hard to believe that we are almost at spring break...the early part of this semester has flown by, aided by the myriad number of large projects and initiatives that are underway. (Time flies when you're having fun!) For those of you unable to attend some or all of the recent community events, here's a high level recap.

Legislative Kickoff: Coincident with the start of the 2018 legislative session, we held a kickoff event on campus. This is the first year, at least in recent history, in which kickoff events have been held on all five UMN campuses. The event is designed to highlight and encourage advocacy for the University and the agenda that the University hopes to have approved in the legislative session. This year there are two capital request items that--if passed by the legislature and signed by the governor--would result in monies for our campus infrastructure.

The first is the annual HEAPR request. For this year the U is asking for \$200 million. We are allocated 3% of HEAPR monies and we would use it, among other things, to upgrade campus HVAC and fire systems. The second, titled Greater Minnesota Academic Renewal, would fund conversion of the ground floor of Blakely into a state-of-the-art, K-12 teacher training facility including classrooms, a curriculum center, and an observation room and would allow for upgrade of high-use classrooms and active learning spaces in the Humanities Building with replacement furniture and new technology.

As a result of our students' awesome presentations at the kickoff, University Relations requested that Morris students participate in the U's presentation to the Senate Bonding Committee next week in St. Paul.

Visioning and Planning: As a reminder we are now in the second phase of the visioning and planning process. Last semester we looked at the larger higher education picture -- reading and discussing a series of topics. This semester we move to phase 2, with work led by a campus taskforce. The task force's charge for this semester: Building upon our traditions of innovation and excellence think creatively and entrepreneurially about what it means to be a liberal arts college in the 21st century. Toward that end, create a set of forward-looking and forward-thinking goals that will help us to define what Morris as an institution aspires to be 10 years from now.

To summarize briefly from the community forum on the 13th, there were three big takeaways from the presentation (posted on the Visioning and Planning Canvas site):

- Our liberal arts mission is central to what and who we are and will be
- As an institution we need to be bold, intentional, and creative in imagining and ensuring our future
- I am committed to finding funding to make and support change, even in an environment of very constrained resources

Next semester, given our vision and goals, the focus will be on developing and bolstering strategic and tactical structures, processes, and plans that will help us move from where we are now to where we want to be.

The task force has convened and will begin substantive work after this very Assembly meeting. The work of the task force will include substantive collaboration with the campus community as a part of the process.

Budget Presentation concerning FY 18 and FY19: As a follow up to the December community forum focused on the budget for this year's fiscal year and next, we held a second budget-focused meeting last week. During the presentation I outlined the plan for addressing the projected shortfalls in both fiscal years. The overall strategy has been to continue to try to minimize the impact of needed budget reductions ahead of more strategic realignments once the visioning and planning process has concluded. In FY 19, we need to find about \$1.5 million dollars in reduced salary and fringe expenses. In our discussions and decision-making we used the following principles to guide our work:

- Protect the integrity of academic programs and the student experience

- Preserve employment of current employees
 - Reduce number of layoffs by rethinking how we do business
 - Take advantage of natural attrition and retirements
- Look for possible efficiencies and reduce duplication of efforts by evaluating opportunities to restructure current operations.

On Monday, we will present our compact request for FY19 to the system's Budget 5 decision makers in the Twin Cities; our financial plan continues to be a work in progress.

President's Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Initiative: In November, President Kaler launched an initiative to "...create a University environment that's healthy and safe for all, and an understanding that preventing sexual misconduct--assault, harassment, stalking, and relationship violence--is everyone's shared responsibility." As the first phase of the initiative, all faculty and staff will be required to complete online training. You should soon be receiving notification of the training and how to access it.

Also as part of the initiative, next week several Morris faculty and staff will be in the Twin Cities for a one-day system wide conference on the prevention of sexual misconduct.

Finally, I want to recognize some recent awards and honors to make sure that everyone has heard the great news:

Horace T. Morse-University of Minnesota Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education: Sheri Breen and Tracy Otten

John Tate Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising: Michelle Page

Institute for Advanced Study Fall 2018 Residential Faculty Fellow: Tom Genova

Faculty Distinguished Research Award: Julie Eckerle

UMM Alumni Association Teaching Award: Tracy Otten

National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) 2018 Emerging Artist: Andrew Stansbury

Our four Fulbright student awards in 2017-2018 landed Morris on the list of top producing Fulbright student awards...as the only public institution on the baccalaureate degree granting list.

Congratulations to all of the honorees, and thanks to everyone who has contributed as a nominator, letter writer, interviewer, coach, mentor, cheerleader, or friend for all of our deserving award winners."

II. For Action From the Steering Committee. Minutes from 12/4/2017 Campus Assembly approved as presented.

III. Announcements.

A. Membership committee, Matt Zaske.

Electronic voting will commence at 6:00 pm today to elect the Vice Chair (Chair elect) of the Steering Committee. Matt reminded us, happily, that we no longer need to count paper ballots. The voting for this position will be open for one week. Heather Waye and Ted Pappenfus are the two candidates. This election will be followed by a handful of constituency-based elections. Those entitled to vote in a particular election will receive an electronic ballot. These successive elections will likely last until after spring break with the hope of completion by April 1 so that the Membership Committee can work on the appointment process for standing committees. We can expect to see the committee preferences form after spring break. Adrienne Conley requested information about the two candidates. Tiernan Lenius suggested that candidates might provide a

300-word summary of purpose, as candidates for MCSA leadership do, to inform voters about why they would be effective in this role.

Matt Zaske indicated that, based on past experience, candidates might be reluctant to do that reminded us that candidates frequently encourage votes for their opponents.

Tiernan Lenius stated that the value of the statement might be greater than the reluctance of candidates to provide them. Sierra Brown reminded the body that this practice is used successfully in student elections. Simply knowing who people are may be inadequate to inform voting decisions.

Nancy Carpenter offered the fact that it's often hard to find candidates. Voters who choose "none of the above" in an election should be willing to serve themselves.

Margaret Kuchenreuther contributed the fact that faculty have photos on the discipline websites that could inform voters who may not know them by name.

Adrienne responded that even when she knows who the candidates are, it is valuable to know more about their positions in relation to the proposed office.

Parliamentarian Tim Lindberg reminded the body that in order to win an election, a candidate must receive half of all votes plus one. Sufficient abstentions would prompt a second election.

Parker Smith noted that every elected student has to file a petition describing why they are deserving of an office.

Jen Goodnough said that she suspects that most faculty would simply say they're willing to serve in such a statement.

B. HLC report on assessment, Rebecca Dean and Melissa Bert.

Applause followed Rebecca's announcement that the Assessment Report was submitted to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) today. She acknowledged the efforts of Nancy Helsper and Melissa Bert as well as both the Chancellor and VCAA/Dean. She then gave a brief summary of the report attached to the Campus Assembly Agenda. UMM was asked in February, 2016 to provide evidence of program assessment: that procedures had been developed, that the assessment data is being analyzed systematically and that program improvement is the purpose of these efforts. Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs) have been developed and are aligned with campus wide standards. There was 100% participation among UMM programs. HLC will get back to us in a few months and will be here in October 2019 for the campus visit. We will repeat this assessment cycle again next year. There is nothing that says we can't start the process again right away, supported by opportunities like upcoming brown bag sessions. We need to remember HLC's admonition that these efforts are for the purpose of program improvement. "Closing the loop" is important to ensure that the changes made are continually assessed to make sure progress is realized and documented. Future HLC reports will include information on General Education assessment. Rebecca thanked faculty who have begun addressing this focus and invited increased participation. *Melissa announced the specific dates of the HLC visit: October 28-29, 2019.*

Five leads are working on the assurance argument, collecting evidence for our statements. In the next few weeks, requests will be going out to individual offices from whom data is needed. These will be compiled and submitted by August 10, 2018. Other groups preparing for the report and the visit include Quality Initiative, High Impact Practices, First Year Retention and Fostering Student Health and Wellness. The Quality Initiative must be submitted by August 31, 2019, but the goal is to submit it by next spring.

C. Announcement about the MCSA Prairie Gala by Steven Tetrick.

Steven invited all students, faculty, staff and alums to join MCSA as they host the first Prairie Gala on Thursday, March 22 from 5:30 to 8:00 in Oyate and Edson. Free will donations and a silent auction will raise funds for the following scholarships: Opportunity Scholarship, Athletics Fund, Sustainable Green Fund, Study Abroad Scholarships and UMM Catalyst Fund. Organizers welcome ideas about businesses that might be willing to contribute to the silent auction. More information will be coming on this formal event.

D. Announcement about the Undergraduate Research Symposium by Barbara Burke.

The Undergraduate Research Symposium is April 14th and abstracts are due by 4:30 on Wednesday, March 7th. Barbara encouraged participation from all disciplines, whether it be presentations, posters, abbreviated performances or multi-media. It will be a real celebration of scholarship and research at UMM.

IV. Campus committee reports. No reports.

V. All university reports.

Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP): Jennifer Goodnough reported that recently the SCEP agenda has included a report on the impacts of current world politics on international students, policies to assist DACA students; approval of future UMM calendars; and examining grading and transcript policy. At UMM this has included working with the Scholastic Committee and the Dean's office. There are no real substantial changes. Jennifer also mentioned that grade distributions are public information and available from My Portal. Grades can be viewed by campus, division, and discipline levels. There is a lot of good information around norms and Jen encouraged people to look at them. SCEP will be exploring data that would yield trend information. She also reported on the Faculty Consultative Committee. The committee visited Morris last September and received good feedback. Committee chair Joe Konstan is continuing to show interest in the UMM American Indian Tuition Waiver.

Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs (SCFA): Peh Ng reported that Parental Leave for all employees has been approved. This means six weeks paid leave for birth, adoption, or gestational surrogacy, something that has been discussed for a long time. Peh encourages attendance at the State of the University Address on March 1 at 3:30 pm, broadcast in HFA 45.

VI. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned a 5:15 pm.