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Campus Assembly minutes 04/03/2018

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Campus Assembly Meeting
April 3, 2018

There was a motion to add the Morris Campus Student Association Resolution Concerning UMM Polling Site as an action item after the agenda item V. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

I. **Chancellor's Remarks.**

“The academic year is rapidly coming to an end; Commencement is just around the corner. The luxury of time that we experienced in the fall seems so long ago and far away. As we careen (and I can think of no more appropriate descriptor) toward the end of the year, I would like to update you on a few items – ongoing, just launching, and to come.

Morris Strategic Visioning and Planning Process

Over the last few weeks, the strategic visioning and planning task force has hosted a series of sessions to seek campus input ahead of drafting our vision and goals statements to imagine Morris as a leader in liberal arts education in 2028. More than 150 faculty, students, and staff have participated in the hour-long exercise in addition to those who participated in the fall’s readings and conversations. The task force now has the unenviable – but critically important – task of making sense and meaning from participants’ ideas and input. There is a lot of raw material for the task force to work with: artifacts from the session exercises, suggestions from the suggestion boxes, notes from the readings and conversations sessions, and the big questions I articulated at the beginning of spring.

The task force will be working on vision and goal statements over the next few weeks with the aim of holding additional consultations with campus constituents during the last week in April. Plans are being developed to undertake the consultations, so stay tuned. The next step will be then to refine the vision and goal statements based upon the additional campus feedback. By Commencement we should have this stage of the process fairly well in hand, with consultations with external stakeholders taking place over the summer. In the fall, using the blueprint we develop this semester we will build out the strategies and tactics to help us to actualize our vision and achieve our goals.

I have heard some rumblings about the process proceeding rapidly, so I’d like to provide you again with context, including some external deadlines within which we are operating.

Coincident with our own strategic visioning and planning process this year, the UMN system is undertaking a systemwide strategic planning process mandated by the Regents. You will recall that last year there was a highly consultative and collaborative effort, led by then-Chancellor Steve Lemkuehle and Vice Provost Rebecca Ropers-Huilman which involved visits to Morris and the other campuses. This resulted in the Systemwide Strategic Framework. For those of you who have not looked through it, the framework document continues to be posted on the Visioning and Planning Canvas site and I encourage you to read it.

The Regents adopted the framework last June and subsequently asked for a Systemwide Strategic Plan to be developed this year, with the goal of using the plan to guide funding and other decisions for the System. Work on the plan has been ongoing with the aim for consultations to take place this summer.

The plan is scheduled to be included on the Regents' docket for September. Why is this relevant? Because embedded in the system plan is the expectation that each of the campuses will include their campus vision and goals. (That means before the beginning of the next academic year, we'll need to be prepared to articulate our vision and goals.)

Also in September, we will launch the public phase of our comprehensive campaign. As we continue to work toward our \$21 million goal, having a forward looking strategic plan to discuss with our alumni, donors, and fans will generate excitement, and continued commitment to supporting what we do here at Morris.

Finally, President Kaler has asked us to have a completed strategic plan for Morris by December. These external deadlines, in part, drive our work.

However, even without the external deadlines, we do not have the luxury of taking several years to develop our plan. We have, as you know, financial challenges that – at least in the short term -- are structural and ongoing. As I have said before, we need to be bold and innovative in imagining our future so that Morris continues to be a viable, vibrant institution. And as I have said many times this year, we need to look broadly across the higher education landscape to situate ourselves, and to ask existential questions: What ought a liberal arts education to look like in the 21st century? Are our programs responsive to our 21st century world, a world of rapid change, new sorts of careers, and many challenges? What does it mean to provide the best possible experiences for our students? How can we best continue to support and enhance our commitment to educating and empowering underserved student populations? How can we enhance our existing collaborations and build new partnerships within our campus, the University system, and the state of Minnesota?

These are the questions that the strategic visioning and planning process must help us to answer so that Morris continues to be a national leader in undergraduate liberal arts education. And we need to use the answers to these questions to help us to be strategic as we develop budgets and concrete plans for the campus.

I want to thank each and every one of you again who have contributed – and will continue to contribute – to the visioning and planning process. It matters.

Campus Visitors

We will have two sets of visitors here from the UMN system this week with whom the campus community has been invited to interact.

Earlier today, Senior Vice President Brian Burnett, Associate Vice President Julie Tonneson, and Senior Budget Analyst Koryn Zewers were here to speak to us about campus finances from a system point of view. They presented an overview of the UMN budget, a description of the budget model and how it works, informed us about how decisions about budgets are made at the system level – the budget process, and outlined institutional reporting and discussed a couple of financial cost analyses. Particularly in light of our current financial situation and the visioning and planning process, I hope that it was helpful for the community to learn about the broader state, national, and system contexts in order to better understand our budget and the budget process. I was pleased that we had more than 40 UMM community members in attendance. For those who were not able to attend, the PowerPoint presentations will be posted on the Canvas Strategic Visioning and Planning site.

Tomorrow and Thursday, Interim Vice President Michael Goh and other staff from the Office of Equity and Diversity will be on campus to meet with a number of Morris offices. I invite all of you to attend the reception tomorrow with our OED colleagues at 3:30 in the Cougar Room.

Vice Chancellor Evaluations

The University requires us to evaluate senior administrators every three years. In the next couple of weeks, we will be launching 360 reviews for Bryan Herrmann and Sandy Olson-Loy. These reviews are the evaluation process for senior campus leaders as laid out in UMN policy. In addition to this more formal process, I am soliciting comments from across the UMM community. I encourage anyone who wishes to provide evaluative input for either Bryan or Sandy to send that information and feedback to Carrie Grussing prior to April 23. While I will share the substance of these comments with Bryan and/or Sandy, the individual source of each comment will be held in confidence. I am asking for feedback that identifies the sender in order to help me to understand the organizational context of the comment and the roles through which the evaluator interacts with the person being evaluated. As always, if you have a concern about possible breaches of a law, regulation or University policy, you can report that situation through UReport, the link to which is located on the HR webpage.

Commencement Speaker

Finally, for those of you who might not have heard, Senator Amy Klobuchar has agreed to be our Commencement speaker. I ask that everyone pray, wish, or appeal to whatever power you favor that we have outdoor-worthy conditions on May 12th! It would be wonderful to be able to show off our campus to its best advantage to our students' families and friends as well as to the Senator and other guests."

II. **For Action. From the Steering Committee. The minutes from the 2/28/18 Campus Assembly meeting approved as presented with one abstention.**

III. **For Action. From the Functions & Awards Committee. Scholar of the College nominations approved as presented.**

Elena Machasova, Chair of the Functions and Awards Committee, asked if there are amendments that need to be made to the nominations, to please send those to her as soon as possible. The nomination statements included information that was submitted. If you wish to add conferences and location or year, please add to the nomination statement.

IV. **For Action. From the Curriculum Committee. The following course change proposals approved as presented.**

Division of Science and Math Proposals:

Chemistry (Chem)

Course Revision: Chem 3801 – History of Chemistry

Course Revision: Chem 4351 – Bioorganic Chemistry

Geology (Geol)

Course Revision: Geol 3601 – Introduction to Geochemistry

V. **For Information. From the Dean's Office. Changes to the Dean's list policy.**

Jennifer Goodnough, chair of SCEP and a member of the Scholastic Committee, presented the new UMM Dean's List Criteria.

New UMM Dean's List Criteria, effective Spring 2018

- Students must have earned a GPA of 3.666 or higher for the semester.
- Students must have completed a minimum of 12 credits on the A-F grading system.
- If students have completed 12 credits with letter grades, a W symbol is allowed.
- No incompletes or Ns are allowed.

Rationale for Change:

This change will bring the Morris Dean's List criteria in compliance with the all-University policy, found at <https://policy.umn.edu/education/gradingtranscripts>.

UMM effectively has two posted criteria (see old criteria below) – one in the policy library and one on the Academic Affairs webpage. UMM did not include its differing criteria in the Grading and Transcript policy (there are other Morris exceptions noted in this particular policy). UMM did not provide a link on the Grading and Transcript policy page to the alternative criteria. (There are other Morris specific links on this page.) There are no FAQs noting this discrepancy. On the Academic Affairs webpage there is no note that the listed criteria differ from the Grading and Transcript policy.

There were notable differences between the Morris policy in the policy library and on the UMM webpage:

1. UMM is more strict in adding a criteria that the student must have completed all credits.
2. UMM is less strict in allowing 1/3 of the minimum 12 credits to be S/N grading.

Old Dean's List Criteria, effective Fall 2006

- Students must have earned a GPA of 3.666 for the semester.
- Students must be registered for a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.
- Students must have taken at least two-thirds of these credits on the A-F grading system.
- Students must have completed all credits for which they were registered during the semester.

There was a concern that it's been tradition that the appeal procedure be brought to the Functions and Awards Committee. Jen responded that this is an historical artifact because Functions and Awards was a subcommittee of the Scholastic Committee.

VI. **For Action.** Morris Campus Student Association Resolution Concerning UMM Polling Site.

Sam Rosemark and Sierra Brown presented the resolution. The goal for MCSA is for the Assembly to agree to the resolution and send it on to the Steering Committee who shall task the appropriate Campus Assembly committee with implementing and issuing a report on the requested actions.

The resolution was read to Campus Assembly members. Sam also read the UMM mission statement stating, "The University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) provides a rigorous undergraduate liberal arts education, preparing its students to be global citizens who value and pursue intellectual growth, civic engagement, intercultural competence, and environmental stewardship." He believes the resolution embraces the civic engagement piece.

Comments/concerns included:

- The Office of Community Engagement would like to be a partner in the four items listed in the resolution. There is also a misunderstanding about what happened at the City Council meeting. Our administration left the meeting thinking the conversation was continuing and that nothing had been decided.
- MCSA agreed that the administration expected the conversation to go on but should something like this happen again, MCSA would like to know immediately. They also recognize the miscommunication was at the city level. We can all agree that the City Council could have handled this better.
- The campus should use this an opportunity to mobilize large numbers of students to get them to the polling place and that the campus should spare no expense.
- The entire campus has a duty to uphold the tradition that UMM has always taken pride in the number of student voters. This will be an uphill battle to reinstate the campus voting place. Afraid that voter turnout will drop significantly.
- If you are eligible to vote, you are eligible to be an election judge. Jennifer Goodnough would be happy to talk with anyone who might be willing to serve as an election judge.
- Blaine Hill contacted Sandy Olson-Loy in November 2017 about the possibility of reducing the number of polling places in Morris. He said Morris had an unusually high number for a city of this size. Another meeting was scheduled in December where we showed our results of being on the national list in terms of high voter turnout. The information about the meeting was shared with the Student Affairs Committee. We had crafted a message to follow up with Blaine and were hopeful that logical heads would prevail. The city's concern is that the Student Center didn't have parking near by. In thinking about the number of voters, we suggested other sites, including PE Center, HFA and Welcome Center. Our sense was that we had a space that could be used. Blaine's concern is that people from the community have trouble getting to campus. In retrospect, we should have taken it to the streets in December; however, she is not ready to give up on a campus polling place.
- Sheri Breen, also an election judge, did not know this was happening. She supports the proposals of the students to try hard – need a concerted and focused effort to get students to the polling place. She supports our efforts to encourage students to vote and to make transportation to polling places possible.
- There a lot of conversation about recruitment and retention of students but this is also a faculty and staff recruitment issue. Lack of inclusivity in the community is one of the reasons for the recruitment issue. Voter repression is happening all over the country. The impact of this situation is fare more important than the intention and it's a much larger issue than where the polling place is located.
- Many of issues addressed here today where brought forward at the City Council meeting but it was not the information they were looking for. It was suggested that MCSA invite the City Council or Blaine Hill to campus to explain their rationale.
- Same day registration, which is voluminous on campus, will be impacted if students can't easily run back to their dorm to get the information they need to complete the registration.
- In terms of this motion, I do want my employer to be a front line player in voter turnout but I don't think it's the role of the university to shuttle students back and forth. This seems like a role for civil society.

Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Announcements.

MSCA election results

Elsie Wilson introduced incoming MCSA President Andrew Brichacek and Vice President Sierra Brown.

Update on HLC from Melissa Bert

Our annual institutional update was submitted to HLC last week. The Quality Initiative groups have submitted their one-year reports. At the May 3 Campus Assembly meeting, we will give an update on what we've concluded from our efforts.

The HLC annual conference will be held April 7-10. Michelle Behr, Rachel Johnson and Melissa will attend.

V. Campus Committee Reports.

Sarah Buchanan, Co-chair of Consultative Committee, reported that the committee has been charged with updating Campus Assembly that they received a number of unsolicited comments about the recent budget cuts and reallocation. Those concerns have been sent to Michelle Behr and Janet Schrunk Ericksen.

VI. All University Reports.

Sheri Breen, UMM's rep on the Faculty Consultative Committee, said the FCC will be nominating two individuals to the Benefits Advisory Committee. If you are interested in being nominated, please forward your name to Sheri or Jennifer Goodnough.

From the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs (SCFA): Peh Ng reported that SCFA recently discussed revisions to two policies which pertain to directly to UMM faculty and employees.

The first is an administrative policy on Outside Consulting and Other Commitments," which states that "University employees may participate in commitments with external entities (outside commitments) during the term of their appointment, as long as the outside commitment does not present a conflict of commitment. Conflicts of commitment arise if the activity:

- interferes with the performance of regular employment;
- competes with coursework offered by the University; or
- competes with services offered by the employee's unit."

The second is revisions to the Faculty Development Policy including a change in policy language to provide one semester Sabbatical at full pay after 6 years of service and two-semester sabbatical at 50% pay.

Both items above are still being discussed, so if there are questions or comments, please email Peh.

VII. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

