

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well
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Consultative Committee

Campus Governance

10-8-2014

Consultative minutes 10/08/2014

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Consultative Committee
October 8, 2014
Prairie Lounge
8:15 am

Present: Leslie Meek, Megan Jacobson, Lisa Harris, Rita Bolluyt, Julie Eckerle, Sam Daniewicz, Nancy Helsper, Michelle Page, Jean Rohloff, LeAnn Dean

Absent: Jayne Blodgett, Allison Wolf

Guest: Vice Chancellor Lowell Rasmussen

Approving the minutes from the October 1 meeting was the first order of business. With minor corrections, the minutes were approved.

Lowell Rasmussen was welcomed to the meeting. He provided information on several topics as follows:

- 1) **UMM Master Plan.** Lowell related that the first master plan with which he was involved focused on the historical nature of buildings while the next plan (2008) identified our sense of purpose. Though we probably won't invest the funds for a new master plan (typically between \$150,000 and \$200,000) for facilities in the near future, the next plan may be more focused on our academic mission. Rita asked if there was typically a fixed amount of years between each plan. Lowell responded that it depended more on when the campus senses a new plan is needed. There are bigger issues in the foreseeable future.
- 2) **Strategic Planning.** Last year our campus Planning Committee reviewed the 2006 plan, focusing on its highlights and matters that are still relevant. The new wrinkle this year is that UMTC has rolled out a new strategic plan. Now, our Planning Committee is talking about an intersection of a UMTC plan and a UMM plan. At a recent meeting with the Chancellor's Advisory Committee, President Kaler seemed to indicate that we should collaborate with UMTC planning when it benefits us. Right now we're in the early stages of such a discussion. The overall "grand" schemes may fit us pretty well. It seems that President Kaler is promoting more opening to community needs and more trans-disciplinary and interdisciplinary initiatives and courses. Michelle asked if as far as Lowell knows, are other campuses talking about fitting into the UMTC plan? Lowell responded that he isn't aware what other campuses are doing. It is likely there will be budget implications for the strategic plan and we need to make the case that we will fit into those discussions. It's in our best interest to "pay attention."
- 3) **Repair and Replacement issues for UMM facilities.** Lowell distributed a pie chart entitled "Integrated Funding Plan for Small Scale Space Recovery" as well as a spreadsheet outlining an order of campus projects that we could undertake in an incremental way and is subject to change. He also described a plan that he had outlined some years ago in a white paper about how the current capital bonding model doesn't work for UMM and that we should offer other approaches to central administration. This is coming together with an announcement that President Kaler made three weeks ago where he planned to ask the legislature to reduce HEAPR funding and increase funding by \$18M for repair and programmatic funds for use by outstate campuses. HEAPR funding requirements have become more restrictive in recent years. This new approach would give us programmatic dollars to replace furniture and carpet and do complete jobs. Existing campus funds could then be targeted towards technology needs instead of just repair. These will probably be smaller projects than capital bonding, but we'd avoid burdensome campus debt. Lowell also handed out a spreadsheet that outlines future projects, noting that after FY16 we won't have to pay the \$700,000 annual payment for our structured debt. Julie asked a question about the Humanities building project. Lowell reassured her that those improvements are already

planned and budgeted for next summer. Looking forward, we need to focus on improvements to the mall buildings, keeping in mind the historic district specifications and also giving priority to space that is academic and generating credit hours. Lowell also stated that this approach doesn't mean we won't ever build new structures. Housing is an auxiliary and the funding and process is entirely different. In terms of the new funding model, we don't know yet what the process for allocation will be but we will have "our ducks in a row" so we're ready when the time comes. Lowell guesses allocations may be made based on square footage on the various campuses. Megan asked how significant will these facilities changes be under the incremental model. Lowell responded that we'd do one or two floors at a time. Robert Thompson has been asked to investigate the particulars of adding elevators to all the buildings where they're needed. Julie thanked Lowell for the planned improvements and air conditioning plans for Humanities. The news is not as good for Camden, since the existing electrical infrastructure won't accommodate adding a lot of individual AC units. The chilled water method won't work there either, as is the plan for Humanities next summer.

- 4) **Outcomes and Stress Assumptions.** Lowell distributed handouts that compared our facilities and funding situation to other campuses, included recommended funding levels for reducing deferred maintenance and capital improvements and suggested how to avoid cost of capital bonding. His recommendations also include tracking our student outcomes more clearly. Accreditors and others are asking us to answer questions such as "What happens to our graduates?" and "What are their starting salaries?" We need to invest more in campus assessment activities. We need to tell our story and describe how we are different or unique. Lowell has invited a MHEC official to come to UMM in February who will share information about performance metrics. Michelle asked if the outcomes and performance metrics issues would have implications for institutional resources in assessment. Lowell responded that we have requested and received funding for an additional institutional research position, but it has not yet been determined what form that position will take.
- 5) **ESUP.** The rollout is still scheduled for February. HR will probably be the most successful and get up to speed quickly. The student finance side may struggle at first. We'll all be impacted. There will be 30 minute campus training sessions on October 27th. The One Stop web site will look different and will be same across the university. We will still need various add-on systems.

Chancellor Johnson will be our guest on October 15th. The committee meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,
LeAnn Dean