

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Finance Committee

Campus Governance

3-28-2019

Finance minutes 03/28/2019

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UMM FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

3-28-2019

Members Present: Roger Rose, Jon Anderson, Michael Korth, Angela Anderson, Naomi Skulan, Justin Terhaar, Bryan Herrmann

Others Present: Melissa Wrobleski, Jessica Broekemeier

Members Absent: Arne Kildegaard, Kerri Barnstuble

Agenda:

i. Review, Changes & Approval of 3/14/2018 Minutes

Jon mentioned the spelling error at the beginning of the third paragraph in section ii. The minutes were then, approved as amended.

ii. Compact Presentation

Bryan noted the meeting was March 15 and included the VP of Research Chris Cramer, Julie Tonneson, Robert McMaster (from Provost's Office), Brian Burnett, and members from the Foundation and Budget Office. Chancellor Behr did a PowerPoint presentation. She reviewed strategic planning and budget information. There were questions on the large amount of money the Morris campus needs to have a balanced budget, and also on foundation work. Roger asked if there are any indicators on receiving the amount we are asking for. Bryan said there is currently no knowledge on that. There is uncertainty on the actual salary increase as the University did not receive as much money from the Governor's recommended budget proposal for FY20, as hoped. Roger asked if they questioned Morris on how we are solving the recurring rising costs. Bryan said it was part of the presentation and was included on the multi-year document and our strategic vision. He noted there is also some movement on what the tuition amount will be. Melissa Wrobleski said more campuses will be requesting tuition increases after the Governor stated his proposal for funding for the University of Minnesota. Bryan mentioned that we can still propose what increase we want for tuition, but it is still up to the Regents to decide ultimately.

Michael mentioned that Morris is one of four units with financial struggles that was discussed at a Senate Finance Committee meeting. He had the impression that Julie Tonneson and Brian Burnett looked comfortable with

where Morris is at. It was mentioned that the American-Indian tuition waiver is a big problem and will take a few years to get back to a better spot. Melissa Wroblewski noted Brian Burnett is very committed to working on this issue but may have to wait a while until the request can be made.

iii. Modeling Enrollment & Retention – Further Discussion

Jon looked at University reporting resources for retrieving data and it seemed like there were established resource tables. He noted that he could fill out a form to get this data, and that it would probably suffice in using for our data model. In the team drive, there is a document called “Strategies for Survival of the Liberal Arts College”. One of these bullets asked how you can survive. The answer was to use data effectively. He mentioned this is a good article to review.

If the committee is interested in going forward he can look at table structure and usefulness. He noted we could ask Melissa Bert about what data, tables, and queries she already runs as maybe she is already retrieving information we want. Roger asked if we should invite Melissa Bert to the next meeting. Bryan agreed that we should have a conversation with Melissa Bert on this. He also thought there should be a focus on analysis of retention with the data rather than just for budget model purposes. He agreed that we could make the budget tighter, but if we can boost retention rates the model will get better. Jon thought if the budget model is off, this translates to a real number and there may need to be more unplanned cuts. These models could be used for all insights. He thought it would be useful to see what information Melissa Bert has and when she draws this information. He noted there are some central administration and IT reports that only updates once a year. Michael thought it may be better to have a few people meet with Melissa Bert and not the whole committee. Jon replied that Roger is the Chair and that maybe he can email Melissa Bert about our possible model and see what information she has. Bryan also thought that a side meeting may be better because there are multiple draws with a lot of information.

iv. Status of Visioning Process

Bryan said there are four aspirational groups that were tasked to talk about aspirational statements. These statements were posted and there was a

survey where people voted the data for priority order. Chancellor Behr asked the groups to take the feedback and put the data in priority order, including timing and which groups or committees to work with. This is due April 5th and may still be some combining after that before Chancellor Behr sends the information out. This will be discussed at the Campus Assembly on April 30th. Roger asked if we could look at this information before the Campus Assembly. Bryan said yes and that hopefully we will have this information for the next meeting. Roger added that this data may be useful for the Finance Committee to review since it will require finances and investments. Justin also added that as things are implemented, the Finance Committee should be aware of these costs. Roger noted that this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

v. Planning Committee Invite

Roger said the Chancellor will be meeting with the Planning Committee on April 9th. Members of the Finance Committee are invited to this meeting, but this agenda is currently unavailable. He said Chancellor Behr will talk about the strategic visioning. Bryan also noted that the meeting is actually 12:45pm-1:45pm. He added that this meeting will also discuss the Native American tuition waiver.

vi. Additional Items

Jon said that in previous minutes there was talk on student fees and he mentioned he'd like a reminder on student involvement and university personnel that hear and read these proposals. Bryan said that for the tech fee the MCSA student group coordinates this meeting. He added that Bill Zimmerman or someone else from IT will be there and that LeAnn Dean is usually there. The students will vote on this but the staff will be there to make sure equipment should be supported. The students make the recommendations to Chancellor Behr.

Jon also asked how IT will handle funds differently. Bryan said there is a change this year when looking at lab expenses and classroom projectors. Before, requests were variable and now there will be a plan that will keep requests more leveled. A portion of the tech fee will go to lab and classroom expenses. Every lab will be replaced every four years and classrooms will be replaced every eight years (with some flexibility). The MCSA agreed to do this for a few years to see how it works. There will be a request to increase the

tech fee of \$7 a semester, which would be the first increase in over 5 years. Bryan stated that having a plan creates consistency and they will meet to review proposals. Bill will need to bring a proposal on what IT will replace in a timeline. Roger mentioned it is something to think about if fees are sufficient in capturing the needs of the campus. He noted the possibility of discussing what fees do in a future meeting.

Naomi asked if the campus will start working on the four strategic vision plans right away and finish before starting a new plan. Bryan said the campus is starting to work on these four aspirational statements and will plan for the next four in the fall. He added there may be need to combine prioritization and may not wait to start working on implementation. Angela asked if we have any fall enrollment numbers with registration coming up. Bryan said admissions has numbers and that May 1st will be the date. Roger added this could be a future agenda item to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned.