

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Finance Committee

Campus Governance

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3-18-2021

### Finance minutes 03/18/2021

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# UMM FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

3-18-21 (via Zoom)

Members Present: Brad Deane, Roger Rose, Jon Anderson, Bart Finzel, Naomi Skulan, Bryan Herrmann, Shelby Maloney, Peh Ng, Mary Zosel, Marie Hagen

Members absent: Angela Hume, Cole Maxwell

Others Present: Jessica Dierks, Melissa Wrobleski

## Agenda:

### **I. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved with no opposition.

Mary let the committee know that she and Marie Hagen are now the Civil Service committee members.

### **II. Compact Meeting Update**

Bryan said that the Budget Compact meeting was on March 4<sup>th</sup>. It included Myron Frans (Budget Office), Rachel Crosen (Provost), Julie Tonneson, and the Dean of the Law School. Morris presented a PowerPoint and booklet. There were a few questions on Housing and Dining estimates. Melissa added that she didn't think there were as many questions this year because due to the pandemic, Morris has been consulting with the budget office a lot more before the meeting than in years past. Bryan said that Morris is always one of the first ones to meet so we can work on detail budgeting afterwards. We won't hear anything about the meeting until May or June. Bryan noted that there was discussion on the online learning fee and that there is currently discussion at the system level adjusting how it is charged. The budget office wants to be consistent with charging the online fee across the system. Peh asked if there was discussion when reviewing the 6% and 9% budget cut models. Bryan said that with the "CARES II" and "CARES III" act being signed those cuts most likely won't happen this year. He added that Julie had calculated that with what we've reduced in recurring dollars that we are actually taking a 4.2% cut instead of 3%. Morris also showed how much the campus has cut since 2014 so there was a sense that we've been working aggressively on balancing our budgets. Brad asked what Bryan is aware about with the financial implications on the leadership change at Morris and if the

support from Crookston that Janet is receiving will be continuing. Bryan said that he wasn't sure where this will land yet as this decision is made at the Presidential level.

### **III. Review Shared Document**

Brad said that Melissa Bert will be joining the Finance Committee meeting on April 1 and that Chancellor Behr or Janet Ericksen will be coming on April 15. This is one of the last days the Finance Committee can review the shared document to pick out 2-3 themes we could pass on to the Chancellor.

Bart said that having spent a few years in the Dean's Office and seeing how strapped all offices are at this point in time that it seems unrealistic that these initiatives will go anywhere unless a specific person/office is given the go ahead to move forward. Instead, he encouraged the committee to suggest to the Administration that we first need an "innovation spot" on campus for a group or committee to actually look at these ideas to move forward with. Jon added that it seems like there are questions and processes beyond the committee's capabilities. He said if we were to share resources with campus or have inter-campus connections, it would require some system oversight and coordination with Deans of various schools and colleges. Bart noted that it is very complicated and mentioned that in the past there were communications with the Dean of the School of Public Health and the Dean of the Humphrey School. Any changes would require a real push from someone at the senior level. Jon asked if Bart had a sense of where the blocks were that prevented things from moving forward. Bart replied that there were a bunch of issues such as cross-listing curriculum and other technical issues. He added that both Deans were supportive of the initiatives but no one knew how to see it through. Peh added that it depends on what topics are discussed and who should be invited to discuss these topics. She mentioned that Morris doesn't have a memorandum of agreement to guarantee our students a UMN degree when they graduated from the Morris campus. She concluded that it would be nice to guarantee our students could stay here for school and then get automatic admissions (such as being admitted to the Vet School). These partnerships would be helpful when talking to prospective students. Bart noted that his brother teaches a course in Pharmacy that has worked out a degree of collaboration between Duluth and Twin Cities and maybe Morris can look at this as a model that we could bring to other programs.

Brad said that he is supportive of Bart's general idea that innovation has been lacking on campus and there is a struggle to find money and reorganize. He added that what we do have right now in times of enrollment trouble, is that we could spare people from teaching to think more about this in a short term way if administration is committed to making this kind of program or committee possible. Roger added that we need to dedicate a lot of resources and put together a group to evaluate. This group would need to include experienced people as well as student representatives to explore where this goes. Brad said that the committee could draft something to put in the final document that includes this. Roger added that this will clearly move over with the Planning Committee so at some point that committee will have to be part of this discussion.

Naomi said that one of the things to look into was a focus on career readiness, including internships and research opportunities. She said that we do this already but didn't know if we should be advertising this in a different way, and added that from a personal view that we have more students working on archival things and can't fill them all since we don't have the funds to do so. Brad said that this theme was on Angela's work as well and that a good marketing technique could be adopted from a similar institution (St. Mary's) which suggests that every student should have a study abroad or internship experience. Naomi said that a lot of students do study abroad, internships, or research opportunities but she didn't know if it is a marketing issue as to how we show students. Shelby concurred and added that personally she was very aware of the fact that our campus has more opportunities because we don't have a Graduate school and don't have to fight with grad students for these opportunities. She said many students don't know this and we could highlight these opportunities better. Bryan said that we have a capstone experience in almost every program and could market this as well. Naomi asked if we have anyone who helps students find internships currently. Bryan said that the career center does but some help is from disciplines because of contacts. Roger added that disciplines inherited it because there is not a campus focus and that faculty in Social Sciences could also do a lot more if we had the resources dedicated to it. He mentioned that it can be hard for students because of cost as many students who inquire can't afford to do so. Brad added that his discipline sends students to work at the Library of Congress but

not all students can afford it. He said that there have been collaborations we've done in the past that we are trying to establish but that there could be more resources to work with internships as well. Mary added that in the same topic of capstone projects we could go into an alumni classroom and present a capstone process. This would be a little marketing but also would give students some exposure to discuss what they are doing. Peh added that many internships also come from requests from former students. She said that this is a great idea but that the only way we could go out to present to schools is going through former students through invitations. Mary said that we could work with the Alumni office to reach out and see if this interests any former students as well as work with Admissions to follow up with prospective students. Bart added that our jazz program is doing something similar and tries to recruit students by going to high schools and performing. Shelby asked if we found out what decisions have come out of having AACRAO consult with our campus. Brad said that this is something we can ask Melissa Bert at our next meeting about.

Brad said it seems like our committee has chosen main things to discuss, including finding a way to foster innovation on our campus, a new emphasis on career readiness, and the idea of sharing resources with other parts of the system. Shelby added that she was impacted by Jon saying that students who come in with more credits have a better chance at graduation and that partnering with schools isn't a bad idea. She said that from her high school students that were doing PSEO were doing so through RCTC and that we could advertise through RCTC. Jon mentioned that he thought part of the dynamic is that those students are selecting themselves as the top student groups so it is not surprising that they are the top students. Melissa mentioned that our campus does a lot of good things and that she thought we could take more initiative to better advertise to students we want to recruit. Brad agreed that we have an excellent product here that people don't know about.

Brad proposed that we should start working on how to articulate these ideas and dividing up the work. He asked if Bart (necessity for creating space for innovation), Naomi (career readiness and internships), and Jon (working with other campuses) could draft a half page with these three themes for the Finance Committee to present. Bart, Naomi, and Jon agreed.

The meeting was adjourned.