

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

## University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

---

Planning Committee

Campus Governance

---

2-13-2024

### Planning minutes 02/13/2024

Planning Committee

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/plan>

---

**Planning Committee**  
**February 13, 2024 11:40 a.m.**  
**Zoom**

Members Present: Mark Collier (chair), Roger Rose, Elliot James, Stephen Crabtree, Emma Kloos, Nizhoni Marks, Laura Thielke, Bethanie Belisle, Arne Kildegaard (Division Chair – non-voting), Bill Zimmerman (non-voting), Bryan Herrmann (non-voting)

Members Absent:

Guest: Eric Watkins, Vice Provost for Distributed Learning

Minutes: Approved by Committee

Agenda:

**1. Request for minute taker(s) – note:** Bryan Herrmann will take notes again

**2. Brief Discussion about student mural question** - A student has requested a discussion about putting a mural on the outside of the Multi-Ethnic Resource Center. Elliot James is a member of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review committee. Discussed the requirements that SHPO evaluates for historic preservation office.

**3. Discussion with Eric Watkins, Vice Provost for Distributed Learning**

Collier asked the question about utilizing courses across the system to fill major requirements or courses when funding may not be available to offer a course or it has small enrollment. Watkins discussed the goals of his office to think about how courses might be combined or utilize resources better. Watkins gave the example of how the Turf program combined a course with Crookston to allow it to be offered to the students for both campuses. The multi – I system allows students to take courses on any campus. Watkins discussed how a goal of the system would be to look across the system as faculty are being hired. There are other ways to think about the way courses could be offered across the system so they could be utilized, for example – making sure all of the summer courses that are offered across the system are available so that it is visible to all advisors and students across the system. One of the challenges – the calendar variation across the system, the Provost has a goal of making one calendar but there are hurdles in many locations, including St. Paul campus. CCAPS is working on a program for degree completion for students who have left without graduating. Collier thanked Watkins for thinking about the summer course offerings. Watkins discussed needing the use of MOUs if programs are devised to ensure students could complete programs. Collier asked if the Distributed Learning office could be the intermediary, Watkins discussed that his goal would for his office to play that role. Kildegaard asked how the summer course offerings worked on the practical level and some of the concerns about being able to search for courses system-wide in one location. Rose asked the question about how course starting timeframe can be a challenge as some campus start weeks after the other. Also the time courses don't line up as well. Watkins noted the calendar timing can be a challenge, he was less worried about the time course offerings. A unified calendar would be make the timeframes work better. Crabtree asked about what steps are being taken to make sure Morris courses are seen by Twin Cities students. Watkins discussed that most things are advisor driven and the Distributed Learning office is working to advertise. Online minors was discussed during his visit to Morris and he would like to think about ways that we can leverage online education for the students in Morris. Collier asked about the feasibility of including the option of offering the coursework for other campuses or leveraging other campuses to support the coursework at Morris. Watkins said yes, that it would definitely be possible, he would solely

depend on that option but it is definitely feasible. Watkins discussed next steps as part of the question Collier asked and he noted we could start by working through a couple sample programs. Collier thanked Watkins for visiting.

Wrap-up discussion on this and thinking about how this could be incorporated. Collier discussed that more disciplines might be needing to look at this and he was wondering how the steps actually work to make this happen. Zimmerman pointed out that technology should not be a barrier to this process. Collier noted that it takes effort to make sure that our summer course offerings are out there for other campuses to see. Rose pointed out that it takes connections between disciplines across the system to work on this and noted that this could be something for this future. Rose noted to have some incentives to have faculty think about where they go forward as options to offer the courses in their major. Collier wrapped up discussing options. Kildegaard discussed that he doesn't think that the system is ready to support offering courses to support majors. Rose pointed out the need to think about creating pathways where you have a multi-I courses as part of the program. Collier asked the rest of the committee to look at the lists of options in the google doc.