

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Finance Committee

Campus Governance

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4-14-2022

### Finance minutes 04/14/2022

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# UMM Finance Committee

April 14, 2022 (virtual)

## Meeting Minutes

Present: Roger Rose, Brad Deane, Bryan Herrmann, David Roberts, Mary Zosel, Matt Senger, Marie Hagen, Bart Finzel, Jennifer Deane, Lucas Granholm, Kendra DeRosa

Absent: Shelby Maloney

Guests: Melissa Wroblecki, Jessica Dierks, Janet Schrunk Ericksen

### 1) Approval of March 31 meeting minutes

There was a motion to approve minutes which were approved unanimously.

### 2) Acting Chancellor Ericksen: discuss HLC items raised at recent commission meeting

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is a peer review team that reviews UMM every 10 years with a midcycle assurance review in year four (2023). The online criteria and core components review letter for the HLC is on UMM's website: <https://students.morris.umn.edu/sites/students.morris.umn.edu/files/hlcfinalreport.pdf>.

Leadership suggested the Finance Committee could specifically make contributions to item 4 on the report: The demonstration and documentation of a systematic and systemic approach to link assessment findings with institutional planning, evaluation of operations, budgeting and decision-making. At least two cycles of this process should be evident. There are two things the Finance Committee could contribute to item four:

1. Look into assessment for academic and co-curriculum and answer questions such as: are the goals outlined in program review realistic in terms of budget or does the discipline/co-curricular program have sufficient funding to meet its goals effectively. This would be information that would then be factored into the budget process. The Finance Committee can make recommendations to the Division Chairs and Vice Chancellors. The assessment and program review don't play into the budget decisions currently.
2. The Finance Committee could include a question(s) on budget worksheets on ways recent assessments have informed budget decisions for the unit. The committee could discuss the wording on this.

Question: All program reviews don't ask for funding, what should the Finance Committee look at? Answer: If the committee looks at allocation and goals, there can be a discussion if they line up.

Question: Program review was discussed at the last meeting that it may not provide useful information as things change quickly. Could there be a call to ask if there is something that relates to the budget if they could send the information to the Finance Committee in a potential survey. Answer: Could we have both the program reviews as well as this option for programs to reach out. In 5 years the committee would have all the information.

Discussion: Some members weren't sure that the Finance Committee is the right place to do this as there is a small amount of time each year to review this and the members are ever changing. It may not be the committee's place to make suggestions to cut or supplement a department's budget. Leadership agreed with this concern and noted that they aren't looking for that level of recommendation but a general "this is a priority". Looking at assessments helps elevate the attention to something in the budget. From a Division Chair perspective, it would be helpful to have the feedback of colleagues to help guide these financial decisions. More opportunities to process budget information would be helpful and could connect the dots of all the reports a little and bring more clarity by having the committee look at these in a group.

Discussion: Another concern members had was that a challenge could be that the committee may not have a sense of institutional norms and patterns across campus. Having robust data could be more helpful. Leadership noted that data that the committee would like to use could be provided. Per conversations, it was noted that the committee shouldn't get too granular and receiving information from disciplines on recommendations on how to increase the budget due to an initiative they may have, is helpful. Actual dollars would be left up to the Vice Chancellor group. It may be useful to have the data the institution provides for program reviews campus wide.

Question: How can the committee make calls on non-curricular budgets? Answer: If questions were included on budget worksheets the information would go campuswide.

Question: What is the timing for these questions? Answer: We can send the questions out to departments this year but won't receive responses until after the Finance Committee is finished meeting for the semester. This information could start being reviewed in the fall.

Discussion: What questions to ask departments would be most helpful for the Finance Committee and how should these questions be sent to departments? Questions may be added to the program review that would be beneficial for the Finance Committee. A Google document could also be sent out campuswide for departments to fill out. A helpful question could be "what budgetary priorities are important to your department" and "based on assessment, are there any potential new programs in need of budget assistance". Brad agreed to send potential questions to the committee for review that he came up with during the meeting. These questions will be sent to the same people that receive the departmental budget worksheets for budgeting for FY23. This could be sent annually. Leadership also gave potential questions which included:

- Are the goals outlined in program review realistic in budget terms?
- Based on assessment and program review, does the discipline or co-curricular program have sufficient funding to meet its goals effectively?

Discussion: Some disciplines may not get this information back timely this year as there may be a meeting to discuss their assessments and program reviews. This could still be sent out and due the week after commencement as this should be short. It would be nice to be able to consider this for FY23 and more. This is tied to annual budgeting but also can be for longer term planning.

The meeting was adjourned.