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Consultative Committee

Campus Governance

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Consultative minutes 11/13/2018

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Consultative Committee

Meeting Minutes

11/13/2018

11:43 a.m. 122 Welcome Center

Chancellor Behr was invited to attend to discuss the interactions between Admissions and academic programs. Chair Margaret Kuchenreuther welcomed and thanked Chancellor Behr for meeting with us and expressed her hope to have many more conversations over the course of this academic year.

To note, the consultative committee has an open invitation for the Chancellor to consult early on in decisions that impact the campus. The mission of the consultative committee is to be a sounding board for all campus constituents and we are here to support Michelle when thinking through tough decisions.

Members of the committee took an opportunity for introductions.

The minutes from the September 25th meeting were available for review. Buchanan made a motion to approve. Helsper recommended a correction to Point 7 C ii 2. To read: *Some of the committee did not agree that there were problems in the way committee conducted itself last year.* Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

The Minutes from the October 9 2018 minutes were available for review. However, there needs to be several revision needed before approval. Motion by Cihak to table approval. Buchanan seconded. Motion to table the October 9th minutes approved.

Although the majority of the meeting's agenda will be tabled to accommodate Chancellor Behr's topics she wishes to discuss, the committee received an email that the committee felt timely to share with Chancellor Behr concerning the need for sustained communications between academic affairs and its associated academic programs and the Office of Admissions. Chair Kuchenreuther read the following email:

"Why isn't there regular, sustained communication between Academic Affairs and Admissions? Admissions counselors should be visiting our classes, watching URS presentations, and asking us for sound bites about what is happening in the (frankly awesome) academic realm on this campus. And in turn, our programs should be giving them bullet points with quotable data, student success statistics, and other material they can draw on.

And why aren't the tour guides educated by academic affairs about the campus? Over the last few years I have started avoiding tours when I see them on campus because I am always embarrassed or sometimes horrified by what I hear the tour guides saying. For example, "UMM was a native American boarding school, which is really great. That they had a place to come learn." I can't tell you how many prospective students tell me

that Admissions informed them that an exciting feature of UMM is that they can design their own major.

We should be having regular, mutually supportive conversations because we are all working for the same thing. We do academic affairs really well, and we should help Admissions (and Admissions should want us to)."

Chancellor Behr agreed that better collaboration is needed on both ends. She expressed her appreciation for the information and can be addressed as we move forward as we address our enrollment issues. Chancellor Behr has shared that Jen Hermann, director of admissions, has met recently with division chairs as a first step on how to work together.

The remaining agenda will be tabled to accommodate the chancellor's agenda.

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Chancellor Behr addressed the question on *'how can we work together more productively.'* She still wants to have that conversation, but there are more pressing issues to discuss today. The chancellor shared two pieces to the Visioning and Strategic Planning process for consultation.

The first piece she wants to discuss is the Visioning and Strategic planning draft lays out how the Chancellor thinks we should move forward in the process. The process is under enormous time and pressure constraints - as the initial time frame had a December 1st deadline to present the document of affirmation statements to President Kahler. Realistically, this is not going to happen. Therefore, we will complete this process by the time the new president takes office in July 2019. Chancellor Behr recommends preparing some of the affirmative statements earlier than this deadline to show we are moving in a particular direction.

Chancellor Behr understands our institutional perspective and recognizes that governance and administration need to work together in order to succeed. The strategic visioning and planning document is owned by all of us and not owned by any one committee or office. This process needs to be broadly consultative. The vision reads:

"The University of Minnesota Morris will be a national leader in collaborative and innovative 21st-century liberal arts education.

Grounded in our sense of history and place and our commitments to access and sustainability, we will integrate scholarly and creative work, community-building, and outreach into our rigorous academic programs.

Our diverse community will inspire and equip students to connect their passions to meaningful futures."

Chancellor Behr then shared the charge for two of the aspiration statements and passed out a draft of each.

Aspirational Statement 1 v3 addresses UMM's liberal arts curriculum. The Aspirational statement reads:

"Honor our liberal arts tradition of the 21st century, through inquiry, community-engaged learning, and rigorous experiential projects across the curriculum, including integrated first-year and capstone experiences."

Chancellor Behr will be proposing a group of people - or taskforce - to address the aspiration statement.

Behr went through a series of framing questions and read each. She doesn't want people to get hung up on the right answer. The bullet points are only suggestions. She reminded everyone the aspiration statements were approved by Campus Assembly.

Comment from the committee: *While the time constraints are driven by naming a new president, it might be helpful to see what the next steps are so the campus can visually see priorities needed to help sell to campus;*

Question from the committee: *Can we use current governance committees vs a taskforce?*

Chancellor: She doesn't want these to be owned by any committee. Additionally, many committee members may have a different view of the campus than others.

Question from the committee: *What will the role of the planning committee be?*

Chancellor: Perhaps the planning committee can provide representation for certain Aspirational statements, such as accessibility. Also it may be helpful in measurement piece and or help move the process along.

Chancellor Behr is trying to insure broad input and it's not just a governance thing. There is not enough time for one committee to achieve this. The chancellor is not trying to disengage or disempower anyone. She suggested that perhaps there may be 'a recommendation from the Consultative Committee that representation from other committees be on the task forces.'

Chancellor Behr also understands there has been data from the Planning Committee regarding past assessment/grading of past strategic plans. She has attended the Planning Committee several times. She envisions to leverage that data.

Comment from committee: *Not many campus members may not understand how our governance structure works;*

Comment from committee: *Perhaps more student representation? More native student representation?*

Comment from committee: *Groups should consult with larger groups of students. Example, academic affairs committee and MCSA;*

Comment from committee: *I like the questions to generate discussion;*

Concern from the committee: *Concerning the timing with faculty and students – these constituencies may not be on campus, research and winter break is late. Can we make the deadline March 1st. It doesn't give us much more time. But with a May 1st deadline, it would be tight, A compromise of mid-February? The consensus is 'yes.'*

Chancellor Behr does not want to work on all eight aspirational statements at once. By selecting some to begin with will make it more manageable. We will start on others next year by prioritize them, however, they are all important. The plan would be to four each year. Discussion then led to the nine charges for each taskforce to consider when crafting the plan.

Comment from committee: *Helpful to include a timeline for the other statements so people don't think some of forgotten;*

Comment from committee: *It looks like no staff are on these task forces.*

Chancellor Behr said she will fix that as it was not intentional;

Comment from committee: *Faculty involvement should include new and experienced faculty and system knowledge. Intentionally balance faculty and experiences, gender balance and campus historical knowledge;*

Additional questions:

Question from committee: *Logistically concerning #9 regarding outlines a draft set of strategies and tactics: is there going to be a certain look or standard format for our strategic plan? Will it be beneficial to have taskforces look at expectations on how it looks?*

Chancellor doesn't want to constrain people. Second half will offer a more prescribed format – outline, etc.

Question from committee: *How will these be vetted? Will we come up with a draft and discuss it as a community? Will it be presented and/or adopted at Campus Assembly?*

Chancellor: Each individual group can come up with how they vet it with constituencies then campus assembly? Perhaps in a public forum. Two difference forums? What could the time differential be?

Question from committee: *Regarding curriculum: Faculty is in charge of curriculum. Faculty will need representation. There is different pedagogy between divisions and they are intentionally diverse;*

Chancellor: We are developing the process, not the substance. Not all these will be created equal but intent is to be interwoven.

Question from the committee *“How will our strategic plan go along with the system strategic plan?”*

Chancellor: The Regents rejected plan it was a framework. President Kahler then announced his retirement and its now sitting there. The regents adopted the framework but hasn't adopted the plan. But they did adopt the enrollment piece.

Comment from the committee: Perhaps share the framework that was adopted by regents. Chancellor Behr agreed.

Aspirational Statement 5 v3 addresses honoring UMM's Native Student Heritage. The Aspirational Statement of reads:

“Acknowledge the first peoples of this land and this land's history as a boarding school through curriculum, programming and partnerships with Native students and communities, as well as through visual markers on campus.”

Due to time constraints, the Chancellor and the committee discussed the following topics:

UMM is harping on retention. UMM has a real issue with it. Retention issues show up in many ways. Retention has again gone down. Effects four and six-year grad rates in the progress card. 60% in four-year grad rate. Ret 76% in six-year. We are already behind. The Regents set these goals.

Chancellor Behr stated UMM has been collecting data and it's difficult to identify one specific reason or indicator. Persistent students are highly involved.

Campus Compact attempts to address oversight and to wrangle efforts over retention. We currently don't know what things we've implemented have been effective. Retention efforts are not coordinated throughout campus. It's not clear when one student is struggling where they go to help for them be successful as they can be. We need a centralized approach. Chancellor has asked Melissa Bert to help with that aspect. Quality initiatives around retention campus assessment, background in admissions and advising. Her doctorate is in higher education

economics. Chancellor asked her to help us to be smarter on what we are doing, and how we are doing it, and to communication among the different efforts around campus. This initiative has not been announced yet.

Question from the committee: *Do we still hold exit interviews? We used to;*

Comment: *How to reach that type of student? Can be multiple factors including family circumstance, mental health, swirling. 1st generation students think they many need to work instead of attending in order to provide for family. How to manage money when others are dependent on income;*

Comment from the committee: *What are the success coaches doing? They should come to division meeting each year and work together with faculty advisors to communicate;*

The committee thanked Chancellor Behr for the opportunity and her time to discuss these issues.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:46