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Consultative minutes 03/12/2019

Consultative Committee

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*Consultative Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 (11:40 am, 122 Welcome Center)*

Members Present: Sierra Brown, Sarah Buchanan, Michael Cihak, Adrienne Conley, Ann DuHamel, Nancy Helsper, Brandon King, Margaret Kuchenreuther, Janel Mendoza, Julia Scovil, Kristi Smith, Angela Stangl

Approval of Minutes from 12.11.18 and 02.26.19. It was determined that the minutes for 12.11.18 were not yet ready for a vote and people had not had time to review the 2/26 minutes. Both sets of minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

Introductions. Since we have new members, introductions were done around the room.

Prep for Conversation with Michelle Behr. The Consultative Committee (CC) cochairs suggested that they visit alone with the chancellor to talk about our concerns in an effort to produce a more congenial atmosphere for the discussion than might happen with 12 CC members putting forth their questions. There did not seem to be any objections to this approach, although it was requested that the cochairs make it clear that they are representing the CC and the community at large.

The cochairs had put together a list of discussion items, mostly around communication issues.

- The VCAA position description.
- Amount of time spent off campus for fundraising and alumni events is understandable and is a required part of the position. But the chancellor must also be visible on campus.
- The perception that there is not enough communication and consultation with the community at large about important decisions. There is a culture of consultation and communication on this campus and that is what people expect of her. How can the CC help in monitoring the right amount of communication? We can be a sounding board; it might be helpful for the chancellor to visit with the CC before putting out important communications. We would advise producing early and frequent communications. Saying it once might not be enough. The chancellor has open meetings times in her office, but the impression is that not many are making use of this opportunity, a fact, which may have also been true in the past.. Electronic forums are not a preferred way to communicate. It was noted that the chair of U.S.A. is not being contacted for input on these important campus issues.

MCSA Update on Committee Consolidation. Students are wondering if the Steering Committee should hear some reasons why CC should not be eliminated before the March 28 forum? There was confusion about why the possible committee structure changes were added as an attachment to the Campus Assembly agenda last time?

It was mentioned that the community hour is not long enough for completion of Campus Assembly business. There is too much to accomplish in one hour. Faculty and staff who have class on Tuesdays and Thursdays don't have time to go to meetings. Some think consolidation might solve some of these issues. MCSA is writing a resolution concerning consolidation. Students want to say either don't make changes or else move the process along. They

recommend not to get rid of finance and planning, but rather to consolidate them. They also ask that Steering Committee membership be revised because currently the various constituencies are not evenly represented. Why wouldn't students and staff representation be equal to faculty? Students support consolidation in part. They don't want to drop below having 20 students on Assembly. Students must be Assembly members in order to fill the 40 student slots on various other UMM committees and that is difficult enough with only 20 students on Assembly. There was a question about why students who aren't on Assembly can't be on committees.

It was mentioned that the U.S.A. organization is bringing a proposal to update the constitution before the Steering Committee this spring. It seemed odd to the U.S.A. chair that some U.S.A. slots required action in Assembly but others were presented for information only. A review of the Constitution revealed that for the first four committees it was clear that each of the constituencies were to vote in their own representatives, but when it comes to the Standing Committees, it appears that the Membership Committee plays the greatest role. The Assembly Parliamentarian, Tim Lindberg, ruled that although traditionally U.S.A. voted in all of its reps, the Constitution did not give U.S.A. authority to do so. The U.S.A. org would like to have that changed so that they do have authority to vote in their own reps. MCSA has a similar issue and has prepared a resolution that will go to Steering.

Melissa D'Aloia is scheduled to meet with us on March 26th. What are the questions CC wants to ask related to Communications and Marketing (C&M)?

--How do we get Morris's message out there so we don't get swallowed up by the system?

--The student listserv went away, so how does one advertise something to students? Campus Connections doesn't work. Students tend to use a Facebook group. How can we come up with an effective way to put out important information to students? Morris events have not been regularly updated on events.morris.umn.edu. Astra feeds into the system automatically. Would it work to have a list that is only open to faculty and staff to send out messages to students. The UMMofficial list is for students and one person can opt out of. The chancellor uses the UMMemployee list. For retention purposes, how can we communicate with students?

--It was suggested that we also bring up this issue with Bill Zimmerman.

--The people in C&M should consider getting out of their office and go to events more frequently, like news reporters. Faculty always have to go to them, it seems. Something needs to change. It was noted that C&M has been without a director for 9 months, however.

--Projects have been delayed by the administration by not approving them in a timely manner. This has caused frustration for a lot of C&M. The roadblocks for C&M have a trickledown effect on the rest of the campus, too.

--What is happening in the classrooms? This is not covered by C&M. Maybe they need to make it more clear that they are open to learning about what is going on around campus. Maybe there should be a periodic call for stories. This issue could be on the agenda for Division meetings.

The majority of video work done in C&M in the last year has been related to fundraising or alumni. There has not been one piece for Admissions. Admissions publications are on a cycle, too. It was suggested that probably next year they will start looking at materials again.

--What role does the administration play in the work of C&M?

--The cochairs will put a list of questions into the Team Drive for vetting.

Questions for Bill Zimmerman at Thursday, April 18 meeting. (It was determined that there is a

conflict at that time with the open forum on the vice chancellor for academic affairs search.)

--Bill should also be asked about the student listserv issue. There is a group of people who get to post to students and they have instructions, but the campus community is not aware of this.

--How often are listservs updated? What is the best way to keep them up to date? Are lists created for all disciplines? Can the updates be done automatically? There are two types of lists needed: one of majors and the other with class lists.

--Bill sent something about the tech fee that was confusing. The new method is to have an 8-year cycle with a specific amount of money for IT (maximum of \$160,000 per year). That leaves 25%. There will be an 11% increase in the tech fee for students. About \$75,000 will be left for other proposals. It was noted that does limit what goes to classrooms. Students should not be deciding where the technology priorities lie.

--Is this a proposal that can be changed? The answer was no, the constitution has been changed.

--We should discuss staffing plans with Bill, too.

--It was noted that MCSA could use an adviser!

Meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Submitted by
Nancy Helsper