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Scholastic minutes 11/08/2016

Scholastic Committee

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Scholastic Committee
2016-17 Academic Year
November 8, 2016
Meeting Nine Minutes

Present: Roland Guyotte (chair), Merc Chasman, Jennifer Goodnough, Leslie Meek, Steve Gross, Joe Beaver, Ruby DeBellis, Colin Wray, Emma Kloos, Ray Schultz, Michelle Brownlee, Dan Magner, and Elsie Wilson.

Absent: Brenda Boever

1. Approve minutes of November 1, 2016, meeting

Minutes approved as amended.

2. Chair's Report

No report.

3. SCEP Report

Jennifer Goodnough reported SCEP will be meeting on Nov 9th and seems somewhat receptive to modifying the make up policy in such a way to allow UMM to do their own verification criteria. Goodnough passed onto SCEP that we didn't have good language for defining 'formal campus governance' but there should be a definition. Goodnough will be giving an all-U report at Campus Assembly after the meeting.

4. Conversation with Chancellor Jacquie Johnson

Enrollment

Jacquie Johnson reported on the Board of Regents meeting at which Provost Robert McMaster discussed the Twin Cities (TC) enrollment strategy. Johnson noted TC enrollment impacts all campuses. The TC is looking at growth over the next five years, recruiting in greater Minnesota, increasing enrollment in STEM fields, going after transfer students and students within the University system. They are looking at which percentage of TC students should be from Minnesota and which balance of in-state and out-of state students. Johnson noted some Regents are concerned about increased selectivity and if we are serving Minnesota. Morris used to set the bar with our academic profile. Scholastic Committee (SC) asked why the TC is increasing enrollment. Johnson explained the TC has very specific programs and schools that have the capacity for more students.

How might we at Morris do better? Johnson noted what we do at Morris doesn't have the same impact on the TC as they have on us. TC retention is as good as any private school. At Morris we serve a somewhat different population. SC asked if it was a coordinated mission among the campuses and if the meeting was collaborative. Johnson said there was strong reaction after the Regents meeting from all the chancellors. Bart Finzel, Academic Dean, attended an enrollment management summit which was called, in part, as reaction to the TC enrollment strategy. Johnson noted there are possibilities for a better system approach.

The enrollment management summit also talked about Study Away. The Study Away theme is to better leverage system resources and make them more available to students. Each campus has identified a set of courses that might attract students from other campuses for a semester--the Morris campus has identified a cluster of American Indian courses and a cluster of courses in Medieval Studies. The system is also looking to leverage resources so there is a path from undergraduate to graduate level. Finzel has had conversations with other campus administrators about a path for Morris students in their last year to move into a public health masters program.

An issue came up at the summit about searching for the University of Minnesota in the google search bar. The search yields links to only the TC campus. The issue has not changed. To access a system page that lists all campuses, a "campus finder" tool must be used.

Morris representatives have had meetings with high school counselors and parents that were systemwide. The TC keeps a waitlist and releases students from the waitlist but not usually until May. Morris might get some of those students, but it's almost too late in the recruiting timeline. International students are released earlier, and we have gained some of those students which helps geographically diversify the student population here. There is a shared admissions application, and TC students are asked if they want their application sent to other campuses.

SC commented on Study Away. If we have students who want to go somewhere else this could have implications for transfer. SC has some concern that big transfer and admission decisions are determined without consulting all campuses. There are petition implications. Johnson said the decision and announcement came about quickly. She said there are all kinds of issues: how could we use Study Away or the multi-i program that could benefit students with particular majors. An example could be taking accounting in addition to the management major. We could find a way to strengthen the management program with something we are not able to offer here. Johnson said she doesn't know if the Study Away program is quite ready. Judy Korn said the system registrars council has known about Study Away and were disappointed they weren't brought into the discussion. Korn addressed the multi-i program and said multi-i is talked about in SC a lot. Six years ago multi-i wasn't even on the website. We have up to 20-30 students participate in multi-i per semester and even more in the summer. She's concerned that if this (Study Away) catches on, it could be multi-i on steroids. Multi-i allows students to attend another campus for one term during an academic year. With Study Away the potential exists to participate in Study Away one semester and multi-i the next. Johnson said the idea behind Study Away is to better leverage resources across the system and provide students with opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have. SC asked if housing will be a problem. Johnson said with attrition there are openings in housing during spring semester. What about tuition monies? What kinds of programs can we build here that will attract students from the TC?

Student Mental Health

Johnson would like to hear thoughts and concerns. Johnson believes SC needs to talk to Sandy Olson-Loy, Student Affairs. Boynton Health Services indicates there has been an increase in demand for services. Mental health issues are increasing before students come to Morris. This is happening across the country. How do we in a rural area provide services for those students? How do we work with faculty and staff so they recognize the signs and know the resources available to students? Johnson was asked if she has advice for the next chancellor and members of the SC regarding the staffing crisis. Johnson said

counseling staff are there and on call. She believes our challenges are more outside the University. The wait time for diagnosis at Stevens Community Medical Center is a month. Jenn Goodnough added that the senate meeting indicated the University is leading the way and Boynton Health Services has reduced their wait times to zero. At the senate meeting it was stated there is a zero wait time for all the campuses. Johnson stated our wait time depends on the nature of the issue and can be two to three weeks. On the TC campus, mental health is moving away from student affairs and into SCEP. What is the SC role? Johnson doesn't think it's either SCEP or Student Affairs. Her advice to the new chancellor is to bring together student affairs and academic affairs

Retention

Johnson said our retention rates are good for a public institution. For the last three years our rates have been 79-80 percent. Nationally reported figures are only for the NHS cohort from fall freshman year to fall sophomore year. There are a myriad of variables including mental health and availability of majors. SC indicated those variables may include distance from home, socio-economic factors and race. The chancellor believes the addition of success coaches will serve our campus well. On campus employment also has a positive impact on retention as relationships develop. We're now trying to use information from the College Student Survey. We've been aggressively seeking funds for various support programs. There's a program where every employer of work study students looks at student outcomes and how their employment is preparing them for the workforce. Student athletes have good retention rates. It's about finding a connection. The same thing happens with music and theatre and some students find the connection in their residence hall.

The SC thanked the Chancellor for her report.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Kill
Office of the Registrar