

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Faculty and P&A Affairs Committee

Campus Governance

1-23-2024

FACPAAC minutes 01/23/2024

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January 23, 2024

Minutes:

18. Members in Attendance: Satis Devkota (Chair), Elena Machkasova, Chip Beal, Athena Kildegaard, Peter Bremer, Carrie Jepma, Tammy Berberi, Michelle Page. Invited: Melissa Bert, Jessica Porwall.
19. Approval of the last meeting minutes.

The last meeting minutes were approved with one abstention.

20. We will meet with **Melissa Bert**, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Institutional Effectiveness at UMN Morris. The meeting will be held virtually, and we will arrange it for either the first or second half based on her preference and availability. She has already accepted the invitation.

Melissa Bert reported. 13% of students who were contacted via email (that went to high-GPA admitted students) matriculated at UMM. The previous year 12% of the students we might have emailed, though didn't, matriculated to UMM. So, the takeaway is that the email effort was not a failure.

Elena observed that CSI and Biology used a mail merge to send emails to a large number of students in those two fields. Elena also asked about COS interviews and their results. Admissions has "adjusted" COS every year since the lockdown. Not sure how they'll tackle the lack of volunteers for the Saturday COS events of next year. The interviews help students to see how we're different, how we're committed, how we've got faculty interested in connecting with students, and for students to see if we're right for them. The interviews are partially a recruitment tool and the scores help make determinations for the awards. This work would not be possible without the volunteer interviewers.

Jessica Porwall mentioned a potential email alternative. Jessica writes: "If the APLUS mail merge option might be helpful for you, for advising or other reasons, you can learn more about it on page 6 of this doc. Look for "send mass emails". Happy to chat about this at another time if anyone has interest:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Bmsm9QTB_tUPWfRmExeYsHT690hwI4B0doWvCO9YpoU/edit?usp=sharing.

Carrie Jepma observed that some potential volunteers have children and so can't volunteer; she asked whether admissions could help with this. This help should be submitted to background checks and the space should be safe.

Tammy Berberi observed that Argie Manolis provides this service for other events. Chip Beal asked whether the COS group is demographically reported.

Chip expressed his desire, as a member of NASS, that he could participate in admissions, though he is limited by the grant.

Melissa said they'd work with Chip and observed that Chad, the next chap in admissions, has a particular affinity for working with Native students.

Peter Bremer asked if the COS *had* to be on a weekend.

Melissa observed that this has come up before. Because of the location, weekdays can be more challenging for families. On the other hand, during the week, visitors will have a better sense of what life on campus is like.

Elena observed that it must be challenging to match candidates with interviews who match the candidate's interests. She would like a list of programs/clubs and contacts to share with candidates.

Tammy noted that pre-pandemic, we had students requesting to visit classes and wondered if that is still offered to candidates.

Melissa said that yes, they would make this possible and they'll be more proactive. Tammy urged Melissa to consider getting students in core curriculum classes as well as classes in potential majors.

Satis asked who our stakeholders are, who are the people in the community who value what we have to offer, and how we can tap them to attract students. Melissa reported that the VP group is thinking about ways of "getting Janet out there." We have a new person in Alumni Relations to be engage with our alums. When alums engage with prospective students, it is often productive. Melissa and Brian have talked about engaging people to promote our brand.

The committee debriefed the visit from Melissa Bert: It seems that time and effort are being spent on re-inventing the wheel; whereas, things were in place that worked. We discussed the need for language that can help us address the "tuition waiver" offered at other system campuses so that we can tell candidates just what they'll get here at UMM. Chip noted that we can also emphasize the critical mass of Native students—something other system campuses can't compete with. It would be extremely useful if everyone participating in engaging with potential students had access to this information.

The intention was to discuss retention efforts and we ran out of time. We discussed continuing this conversation, perhaps with Jessica Porwall and/or success coaches.

21. Michelle's update on Email for life.

Michelle inquired about this with the SCFA when VPHR Ken Horstman attended a meeting in December. The word was that—faculty members who are awarded emeritus status upon retirement can retain their institutional email accounts. However, other retirees will no longer have access to their accounts. The Office of Human Resources is assisting them in transitioning to new systems and will provide support for two years during this process.

If you want to add to this discussion?

Elena noted that alums can get help with storage capacity and the switching of domains. Elena will follow up with the alum she'd spoken to.

22. Addressing the need for childcare space on campus. Faculty and P&A staff who have children often face significant challenges, particularly when schools close. The problem of inadequate childcare facilities on campus has been an ongoing issue for a long time, but it still hasn't been resolved. Therefore, Athena has suggested that we invite Clement Loo, the Chair of COWGE (Commission on Women and Gender Equity), to our committee meeting. She believes that involving our committee, FACPAAC, could help in making a stronger case for improved childcare solutions. Your thoughts or comments on this?

Tammy wondered if any pod located at the old elementary school could be available to UMM. No one knew anything. It was agreed that the need for childcare is important. Satis will invite Clement Loo to a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned.