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Campus Assembly

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9-3-2019

Campus Assembly minutes 09/03/2019

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Recommended Citation

Campus Assembly, "Campus Assembly minutes 09/03/2019" (2019). *Campus Assembly*. 259.
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Campus Assembly Meeting
September 3, 2019
Science Auditorium

Ted Pappenfus, Chair of Steering Committee, announced the need to appoint a temporary parliamentarian for this meeting. Motion to nominate John Barber was moved and seconded. Unanimously approved.

I. Chancellor's Remarks.

“Welcome to the first Campus Assembly of the new academic year. Like last year, we have a lot on our collective plates, and like last year, I hope that the community will work together to help us to successfully accomplish all of the tasks ahead of us.

To briefly summarize, here are several of the top of mind items that we will be engaged with:

Reaffirmation of accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

We are hosting a team of five peer reviewers on campus on October 28th and 29th.

They will be making sure that we meet the five criteria for accreditation:

That we articulate and widely circulate our mission and use it to guide what we do and how we operate.

That we exhibit integrity, operating with ethical practices.

That our teaching and learning is of high quality and there are adequate resources and support in place for this central core of our institution.

That we assess and improve our teaching and learning based on what we have learned from our evaluations of our practices.

And finally, that we have strategic plans and aligned resources to help us respond to current and future challenges.

Just last week I heard for the first time from our team chair, who has provided us with our first glimpse of how the visit may be structured.

There should be 3-4 open forums, focused on the criteria for accreditation, that are open to all interested parties.

In addition, the visiting team will identify some areas of focus (either related to institutional strengths or areas where the team is looking for greater clarification and understanding). The areas of focus are determined by the team after its initial review of the Assurance Argument.

Recall that our Assurance Argument is where we make the case, and provide evidence for, how we believe we meet the HLC criteria for accreditation. We have been working toward completion of our Assurance Argument for almost two years now. Groups of faculty and staff worked to gather evidence and frame potential responses to demonstrate how we meet each articulated standard, writing and compiling our Argument has been in process, and a draft of the document is now close to completion. Once we have the draft responses to each Criterion, each will be circulated for internal review. The Assurance Argument is due to the HLC by the end of this month, so time is short and turnaround for comment will be of necessity quick.

We will likely have a mostly final schedule for the visit by mid-October. You will hear more specific information and updates about our preparations for the upcoming visit later in this meeting, and over the next two months, to prepare the campus for the team's visit.

Presidential Visit.

Speaking of visits, our new University of Minnesota President, Joan Gabel, will be visiting campus later this month. In conjunction with her installation on the Twin Cities campus on September 20, President Gabel is planning a visit to each of the other four University of Minnesota campuses this fall. Morris will be her first visit. She will be on campus the Monday and Tuesday (September 23-24) after homecoming for just about 24 hours. The schedule is still being finalized and we will let everyone know the final plan when it is finalized. I do know that she has asked to include one session concerning this year's systemwide strategic planning effort. (As distinct from the systemwide effort several ago which resulted in the Systemwide Strategic Plan Framework, the Regents have charged the new president with creating a strategic plan that will inform revised accountability measures, budget decisions, and system priorities.) The president is particularly interested in the Morris campus's feedback and questions about this initiative.

As I noted at the Convocation, our strategic visioning and planning priorities will need to nest within the systemwide plan that is ultimately adopted by the Regents. Our work on our own strategic visioning and planning will continue this fall.

Strategic Visioning and Planning.

Over the last academic year, we worked to move the Strategic Visioning and Planning process forward. In November, Campus Assembly endorsed our vision and eight aspirational statements meant to help us achieve our vision. In December, four task forces with representation from campus governance involving students, faculty, and staff were charged to further develop four of the aspirational statements. The task forces submitted draft recommendations in February, generating many, many good ideas. In March, the University community was asked to weigh in on the multitude of ideas via an open forum and an electronic survey. From the campus's feedback a series of ten priorities emerged. Those priorities were endorsed in May by Campus Assembly.

Three high level themes central to the vision statement were reflected in the work that each taskforce completed and transcended all of them. These will continue to underpin our planning work ahead and are evident in the priorities we have adopted as a community:

- Public liberal arts for the future: building the model 21st century public liberal arts college
- Excellence for everyone: fostering capacity with respect to community, culture, climate, and governance
- Vital campus community: ensuring a sustainable and stable University community

This fall we will take up the remaining four aspirational statements that focus on strengthening our commitments to scholarship, sustainability, and accessibility, and that elevate our role within the University of Minnesota system and as an educational center in our region and beyond. We will repeat the basic process that we completed last spring (with some modifications based on our experiences), with the aim of developing a manageable set of additional campus priorities that both concatenate with and enrich those we are already working on.

A reminder that our first Campus Conversation, in response to numerous requests for additional opportunities to provide input as we shape our future, will take place tomorrow from 4:30 to 6:00 pm in HFA 45. Tomorrow's topics will be aspirational statements 4 and 7:

- 4) Ensure that UMM is a leader in environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
- 7) Provide full accessibility to all of UMM's teaching, living, service, and learning spaces and technologies to create an inviting and usable environment for everyone on our campus.

Enrollment Management.

Of the top priorities emerging from the Strategic Visioning and Planning process last spring, arguably half relate to enrollment, working to ensure that we have a viable and sustainable student body. In the email message that I sent to campus on Friday, I outlined some of the steps we are taking this year to bolster our work in enrollment management. In summary here for those who missed that message:

Steve Schuetz will join us as interim director of admissions. He and Melissa Bert will be supporting the work of the admissions office this year as he helps us to evaluate our practices and organizational structure within that office. Steve (RECOGNIZE HIM) comes to us with a great deal of experience in enrollment management, primarily at private liberal arts colleges.

Our AACRAO consultants, Stan Henderson and Cedric Howard, were on campus last Friday and among other things held a 90 minute open forum to discuss observations and recommendations arising from their work on campus last year. The PowerPoint presentation and their complete report will be released to campus later today. I am also pleased to announce that Stan and Cedric will be working with us again this year to develop a strategic enrollment management plan that will guide our work in this crucial area. The process will involve faculty, staff, and student participation, though we won't begin this process in earnest until after our HLC visit in late October.

Every few years we refresh our marketing and admissions materials. This is the year when we set that process in motion. We are being assisted by our University Relations colleagues from the University of Minnesota System who will be visiting campus next week to launch the marketing research that will undergird the development of our new marketing and admissions materials. A Morris advisory group composed of faculty, staff, and students will work as campus culture advisors for University Relations and the marketing consultants. The campus community will have the opportunity to provide feedback as the research unfolds this fall.

Miscellaneous Items.

Finally, a few miscellaneous items...no less important, but perhaps a bit less wordy:

This academic year we will be carrying out a number of administrative searches: the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Dean search is currently underway. In addition, this fall will launch searches to permanently fill director positions in the Office of the Registrar, Communications and Marketing, and Athletics. In the spring we will search for the director of admissions position.

I'd like to introduce Kristin Youngblom, who begins today as the Associate Director of Institutional Research. Most recently employed in the private sector, Kristin completed a Master of Science in Business Analytics from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Carlson School of Management and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Social Science from the University of Minnesota Morris.

And...last spring, Campus Assembly voted to eliminate several governance committees. In keeping with its Constitutional charge, this year Steering will put together a plan to ensure that the critical functions of these (former) committees are productively and efficiently handled elsewhere.

II. For Action. From the Steering Committee. Approve minutes from 5/7/19 Campus Assembly meeting unanimously approved as presented.

III. **For information.** From the Steering Committee.

A. Your role in Campus Assembly and opportunity for engagement/conversation.

From Jess Larson:

"So this will be fun. I'm not consistently perky enough to qualify as a cheerleader, I rely on my standard default: a mess of humor and pragmatism. And many of you can relax a bit, I have a script, so I won't go all Beto and drop some swears language..."

Let me start this task with my fave, the edgy multiple choice quiz questions:

Question 1) Consider the following scenario: "A group of people finding themselves at odds, some frustrated--nay, even unhappy-- at decisions being made that appear to lack transparency

or consultation, and making them feel left out of the process...while others take issue with the airing of grievances in public circles that only seem to heighten the tension..."

Who does this best describe:

- A. The current Federal Government.
- B. The cast of ABC's talk show, "*The View*"
- C. The entire premise for *The Handmaid's Tale*
- D. Any gathering of three year olds, especially when they're in that "reject the nap phase."
- E. UMM's Campus Assembly.

To be fair, dear players, it's a trick question to start us off today, as it's pretty much all of the above. Yet, I will add that I personally find Assembly to be the least dystopian of the set.

My point is to remind us that there are a lot of systems in disarray right now, and it's exhausting to keep up the energy to tolerate them all. But we can't give up and give in to our feelings. We cast votes in 2020, we take as fact that Whoopie Goldberg and Megan McCain are never going to get along, we can work to keep Gilead fictional, we can acknowledge that all three year olds are our collective unrepressed id, and we can make use of Morris's shared governance instead of caving to feelings of insecurity and distrust. Ta-dah!

Which leads me to my second question: The framers of the UMM Constitutional system organized the committee and assembly structure for the following reason:

- A. Because everyone needs a line on their vitae.
- B. It was part of a long term, utopian social plan that was to be expanded to include cocktails, finger foods and sparkling conversation on the banks of the Pomme de Terre.
- C. A perverse desire to see people accustomed to being in charge of other people come together to, in turn, become a hybrid "class from hell" to the delight or horror of the administrators tasked with leading them.
- D. Because they saw that a public liberal arts campus was (and remains) a grand experiment in education--thus, its best chance for success is in the hands of the very people who practice it--rather than hand it over to folks who may inadvertently or deliberately choose to quash its uniqueness in favor of efficiency, fashion or ideology.

Yeah, I know. That wasn't such a hard question either. They loved watching Briggs get flustered. Back to my task. When you've been here for a while, someone will inevitably ask, "Did Assembly ever function and get things done?" Yes. Yes, it did. This body has wrestled both the monumental and quotidian, enacted things that I thought would divide us in the longterm, but also approved measures that make me proud to work here. It's a fact: Some people like to stir the pot, others will hold the floor **forever** trying to make their point. We have hard core lobbyists, loud screamy voices and rounds of applause. It hasn't always been fun, yet, I am most certain it was ALL done for the well being of this campus.

I think it's possible for everyone in this room to find a way to contribute positively to our governance community. Like Obama said, "The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something."

You're probably saying, Jess. I don't think I can handle any more work. I'm dying. OK., I get that. There are easier ways to do this, but it comes down to the question, "Do you want to govern or be governed?"

I will start with this: Will the following People stand:

25+, 20+, 10+ years at UMM: You're the keepers of our shared history and the learned voices to tell us what worked, what didn't. You know our temptations and limits and your commitment in years to this institution reflects your desire to see it succeed. And while your voice is vital in helping us see where we've been, but it must be balanced with not always letting that past dissuade us from taking risks.

Under 10, stand: You're the force of change and innovation. Your strength is to challenge the status quo, see things with fresh eyes and ask lots of questions. But don't let the impulse to upend or dismantle things happen at the expense of what makes us true. And while seeking the new, you are also tasked with obtaining our shared history for the ones who follow you...there is no time like the present.

I admit: shared governance is messy, full of many, many voices and agendas, but it can work as long as we honor the system. It starts with committees--and it is *everyone's* responsibility is to help committees reporting to this body contribute to our mission. We should not treat our chairs as hosts or hostesses "with the mostest."--It is not their sole task to entertain or to source topics. If you're on a committee, you're not "doing time." Find a way to contribute, or better yet, find what you want to lend your talents to and lean in. We can trust the members of committees to engage, to freely discuss and to make decisions, then provide this body with the knowledge to make informed votes.

Your contribution can also start with taking time to read minutes. Ask what's on agendas. Go to a committee meeting (they're open). Contribute to agendas via email or New Business in these meetings. Finally, just come to Assembly. This chorus of committees and viewpoints is often our only chance to hear ideas outside our immediate circles of knowledge, as there is no part of our community that can survive at the expense of another."

B. History of Campus Assembly can be found here:
<https://committees.morris.umn.edu/about-campus-assembly>.

IV. **HLC update.** Melissa Bert.

Melissa Bert, accreditation liaison officer, reminded Campus Assembly that the HLC visit is scheduled for October 28-29, 2019. She thanked everyone in advance for their participation/engagement with this process. If you have any questions about the visit, please contact Melissa. She thanked Tricia Rohloff, Amanda Flinn and Rebecca Dean for their work with HLC.

V. **Announcements.**

- Andrew Brichacek, announced on September 20, three days before the UN Climate Summit in NYC, young people and adults will strike all across the US and world to demand transformative action be taken to address the climate crisis. Millions of us will take the streets to demand a right to a future, and we're inviting you to #strikeywithus" from strikeywithus.org.

A group of Morris youth is organizing a West Central MN Climate Strike! For two days, we invite people to strike from school or work and gather at Green River park to demand transformative action on the climate crisis. This event will take place on Thursday, September 19th and Friday, September 20th, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Strike day one, Thursday, will be focused on learning about how the climate crisis is affecting West Central MN and what steps the Morris Model is taking to combat this. Strike day two, Friday, will be action focused and together as a group we will write letters to representatives, county commissioners, and community leaders voicing our support of transformative climate action.

We invite anybody and everybody to join us in striking! To learn more or to RSVP to the event go to strikeywithus.org or search "West Central MN Climate Strike" on Facebook!

- Janet Ericksen said she is very pleased to announce the first lecture by this fall's Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Liberal Arts, Heid E. Erdrich. Professor Erdrich is a well-known poet and interdisciplinary artist, and she was recently selected as a National Poetry Series Award winner (<https://nationalpoetryseries.org/news/>). We are delighted to have her with us this fall, and I hope you can join us for her lecture and the accompanying reception.

VI. Campus Committee Reports.

A. Introduction of 2019-20 committee chairs:

Margaret Kuchenreuther announced that Consultative selects its own chair
Ted Pappenfus, chair of Steering
Matt Zaske, chair of Membership
Janet Ericksen, chair of Curriculum
Brad Deane, chair of Finance
James Wojtaszek, chair of Planning
Merc Chasman, chair of Scholastic

- ### B. All committees are welcome to comment. This meeting we will hear from Ted Pappenfus, chair of Steering Committee and Janet Ericksen, Curriculum Committee.

Michelle Behr announced that at each of the Assembly meetings this year, the Steering Committee asks that committee chairs talk about what they're working on as an informational piece.

Steering Committee: Ted Pappenfus said the main function of Steering is to set the agenda for Campus Assembly meetings. Another important function is to monitor campus governance and make recommendations for changes as needed. We saw this come into play last year with

committee elimination. Steering will work on this topic very closely to make the transition as smooth as possible. Steering will continue to monitor the Community Hour, now in its second year. Please contact Steering if you have feedback or questions about the Community Hour or committees.

Curriculum Committee: Janet Ericksen said the Curriculum Committee is charged with developing, reviewing and recommending curricular processes regarding majors, minors, honors and all academic requirements. This is not a catalog year; however, this is the year to be thinking about changes you want to make at the program level. We will be finishing the first complete cycle of program review and will begin the new cycle of program review. Look for messages to come soon. We will continue the conversations about gen ed and plans to reexamine.

VII. All University Reports.

A. Introduction of All University Committee members and senators

Jess Larson, chair, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee

Michael Korth, Finance and Planning Committee

Sheri Breen, Faculty Consultative Committee

Nic McPhee, Senator

Roland Guyotte, SCFA Retirement Committee

Peh Ng, Senate Judicial Committee

Becca Gercken, Social Concerns Committee

Brad Deane, Faculty Affairs Committee

Windy Roberts, Senator

Sam Rosemark, Student Affairs Committee

Angie Stangl, P&A Senator

Tracy Anderson, Equity, Access, and Diversity Committee

Josh Westfield, Student Committee on Committees

Dave Roberts, Research Committee

Julie Eckerle, All-University Honors Committee

John Barber, Student Senator

Kiel Harell, Disabilities Issues Committee

Matt Zaske, P&A Senator

Jen Goodnough, Chair, Senate Committee on Educational Policy

B. All committees are welcome to comment. This meeting we will hear from Jennifer Goodnough, chair of Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP).

Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP): SCEP is concerned with all matters that influence the quality of education at the University. It deals primarily with those affairs which affect educational policy and procedures on a University-wide basis. Given that oversight and coordination, we can loop in the Scholastic Committee on this campus. SCEP is also spending time discussing Twin Cities education redesign which is moving forward. The Provost search committee is moving along with applications due in July. President Gabel hopes to have

someone in place soon. There will be plans in place for system campuses to interact with the candidates.

Michelle Behr noted we will continue to do this for the next academic year. She also wanted to recognize the small but mighty contribution this campus has in terms of All-University Committees which is pretty amazing relative to our size. She thanked everyone for their important work.

New Business

From Jess Larson:

Proposal: Academic Listserv

"In late Aug of 2017, this campus was informed of the discontinuation of the @ummstudents listserv, reasons citing complaints from students about an excess of messages within that group. As a member of the faculty, and at the time, interim director of ACE, I was dismayed that this appeared to have happened without any significant feedback from the academic faculty or committees. While I have lobbied committees and administrators privately for the last two years, we're starting our third year of this awkward policy that never properly accounted for how to communicate timely messaging about academic opportunities on campus and I'd like to voice my frustration over an a message was likely unintended (but definitely under-informed) telling teaching staff like myself--I can teach students, pass or fail them, travel overseas with students, advise them in academics and career--I've even been tasked with handing sanctions to students for violations of the conduct code, but I can not communicate with the student body directly as part of my academic role on campus.

The following were covered under this new email policy:

Student Organizations, Event Promotion, News Items, Book sales

How do we as faculty communicate open spots in a class, temporary suspension of prereq's to bolster enrollment, describe new courses or invite students to co-curricular? Given that there is a certain amount of commoditization in education already (see the horribly named "shopping cart" in our registration system), this decision undercuts methods most of are used to in our interactions as consumers and the student body understands as "student consumers." (For example, I doubt Amazon or the Gap would get my attention with sporadic messages, and even my membership with the non-profit ACLU gets me a number of reminders and messages every week.)

As of today, the process is to forward any such email to our Dean for approval. We are typically allowed one email a month, and hope that the timing is right. And, again, hoping said email is approved, we are at the mercy of when the Dean approves it...could be 6am, could be midnight, and it might not get seen when we think students might see it. (I, frankly, think the Dean has much more important things to do and should be allowed to do them.) This leaves us only the ability to contact students already in academic tracks within our disciplines, or (as I have done personally) resorted to using forums on Facebook, and creating custom banners/posters out of pocket to connect with other students. The explosion in printed

advertisements does little to support our image of sustainability, and this disconnect is surely undercutting our ability to retain and inspire students to explore cross disciplinary experiences. There are disciplines on this campus whose enrollments are suffering without that access, and the ACE Office and McNair Program could use more freedom introducing their excellent opportunities to the campus community. We tout a hands on, boutique level of interaction with our students, but this seems very much out of step with that brand.

My proposal is this: creation of an ACADEMICS@UMM listserv, for the sole use of communicating things STRICTLY related to **courses and co-curricular programming (i.e. Discipline related)**. This can be an opt-out list for students, and anyone listed as a **faculty member** can post information--limits can be placed on postings (perhaps no more than 3 a week) or significant complaints from students can result in suspension of access.

I would add, as a suggestion, that it might be time to assess IF the current system is doing what it was intended--are we truly using Campus Connect to its best abilities?"

XII. Adjournment.

Adjourned at 12:25 pm.