Academic Support Services Committee   Campus Governance

4-23-2014

ASSC minutes 04/23/2014

Academic Support Services Committee

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Attending: Sylke Boyd, Jim Hall, LeAnn Dean, Matt Johnson, Taylor Barker, Nancy Cheeseman, Sam Daniewicz

Minutes 3-26-2014

Some friendly edits to wording, etc. Edits were accepted, Taylor will incorporate. Not enough people to vote on minutes, so will vote on them in Fall.

Response of Dean to library request

Sylke got a response from the Dean, from this committee's letter to the Dean. Dean had shared with the VC group. Addl resources are unlikely in this climate. Question was asked by the Dean about funding priorities: for example, funding the Digital Well. Some discussion on this topic, LeAnn not sure what the reference to Digital Well ("For example, if budgets remain as they are, should we continue to fund the digital well?") and wondered if this was just an off the wall example, not a specific.

Appreciate the fact that the Dean is supportive of the challenges in the Library.

Do we as a committee need to have followup on this? Either this committee needs to respond to the Dean to re-evaluate "the relative value of different library activities" or we should respond to say that this re-evaluation is not necessary or cannot be done. General agreement that such a discussion would be getting too deep into the details of Library budget activities. LeAnn suggests that would set up a precedent that the committee should look closely at any academic support service group to evaluate their budgets too.

Agreement that not a topic that needs to be brought forward at this time.

Response from Membership and Steering committees to request for an ex officio committee member from DS.

Sylke received a response from Membership Committee to put Director of Academic Success and Disability Services Coordinator as XO on ASSC. Discussion about representation and how Nancy's position will be split up after she leaves. We don't want to add three new people to the group; Nancy is only suggesting one person (Disability Services Coordinator) on the committee.

The problem is that Nancy's position as it is today won't exist after Nancy leaves; the office is being reorganized. Her position will be split into two positions: [Interim] Director and Coordinator - instead of Nancy's current role, where she has both titles. Would we add the two people? Or just the Coordinator?

LeAnn concerned about setting a poor precedent if we add a "Coordinator" to ASSC rather than the "Director" because traditionally campus governance includes the Director. Nancy argues that the committee should include Disability Services representation, so Disability Services can be more visible. Some agreement by the committee that this would make a good connection between Disability Services and the campus needs.

Committee reviewed the wording in the proposal, agreed to change the wording in the request from "..the director of the office of academic success/disability services coordinator.." to something like "..a representative from disability services.."

Will be in Steering Committee next. The vote by Assembly can't happen until Fall.

More discussion on Technology Fee and classroom maintenance

Last meeting, we started a discussion last time (didn't finish) about funding and classroom technology. Did we want to continue that discussion? No, we need to have Mike Cihak for this discussion. Will pick up in Fall.

Reports

Disability Services:

Working to collect data from all the accessibility subgroups, drafting a plan for the Dean by end of May. All the subgroups had significant overlap and identified many of the same items and barriers. For example: need for an assistive technology specialist (someone who can help faculty, staff, students) - this comes from the legal suits that were settled, and various discussions with the technology groups about the need to have a specific person with expertise on disability access needs. Also: professional development for faculty about how to create accessible class materials. Also: classroom maintenance to make sure there's appropriate equipment and furniture to support disability needs.

LeAnn commented that it would be good for that report to come to ASSC (in Fall) for us to review and and endorse. That might give it some weight.

Library:

Search for the new digital services coordinator is currently. One interview today, another on Monday, April 28.

Starting extended hours next week for Library, as usual. 2am. Snacks and coffee, paid for by Library.

Computing Services:

Doing a Request For Bid ("RFB") for computer and printer support. This is the on-site after-warranty support that Morris Electronics currently provides. This arrangement is at least 10 years old, there are new vendors in town who can provide this same service, so it's in the best interest for the University to do an updated RFB. Open to all interested parties. Timeline is to distribute the RFB in May, decide and award in June, and new support contract starts July 1.

Reminder about UThink blogs going away in December. Hall re-iterated the comment from last time that the Twin Cities campus will retire the UThink blog system (blog.lib.umn.edu) in December 2014. If you have blogs on UThink, you will need to move to another blogging system, such as Blogger (part of the U of M Google Apps). You can use the "export" feature from UThink to get a copy of your blog. Twin Cities can also give you a zipped copy of your blog. Either way, it's very difficult to directly import this into Blogger, but it works as an "archive" copy.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jim Hall.