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Finance minutes 03/21/2012

Finance Committee

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UMM Finance Committee Minutes-3/21/12

Members Present: Roland Guyotte, Laura Thielke, Timna Wyckoff, Mary Zosel, Reed Olmscheid, Pieranna Garavaso, Michael Korth, Andrew Sharpe, Lowell Rasmussen, Manjari Govada

Members Absent: Sara Haugen, Gwen Rudney

Guests: Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson, Sheila Windingstad, Note taker

Roland opened the meeting by asking Chancellor Johnson to share the results of UMM's FY2013 Compact/Budget meeting:

Attending the meeting at Morrill Hall were Robert Jones, Richard Pfutzenreuter, Deb Cran, Chris Frazier, Carol Carrier, Mark Baumgartner (our UMF liaison), Julie Tonneson, Carol Fleck, Linc Kallsen, all UMM VC's (Bart Finzel, Lowell Rasmussen, Sandy Olson Loy, and Maddy Maxeiner), Colleen Miller, and Chancellor Johnson.

There is one item that Chancellor Johnson would like the Finance Committee to come back to for next week's meeting and that is in regard to the proposed increase in the UMM Campus Fee. Chancellor Johnson stated that UMM did get the group's attention with the dramatic increase proposed. The System Officers agreed that they will take a look at the reasoning behind why the increase was proposed. They heard and understood that the American Indian Tuition Waiver is part of our legacy. Pfutzenreuter & Jones expressed their opinions, and stated that we should talk about the campus fee as a separate item and decouple it from the waiver.

The UMM salary study was presented, along with the importance of making adjustments to be in line with comparison groups. Lowell, Colleen & Chancellor Johnson are also looking for other ways to help address this issue with existing resources. They will go ahead and work with supervisors/department heads on the 2.5% overall increase as proposed in the FY2013 Budget Instructions.

A new position – an American Indian Financial Aid Officer - was presented and briefly discussed; and the idea of a partnership with the School of Nursing, and leveraging that program and salary dollars to develop a program to be housed at UMM, was presented. Roland asked if the request for an American Indian Financial Aid Officer position was accepted well, and Chancellor Johnson believed that it held potential. She thinks that it was well received and asked Lowell to comment. He stated that the Chancellor did a very effective job describing the risks and the overall benefit of funding this position.

Chancellor Johnson shared another unresolved issue, the reallocation of dollars to the University's Promise Scholarship program (ranging between \$523,000 and \$600,000). The final amount is still unresolved. Lowell stated that the good news is the Budget Office did commit to covering the deficits in the UMM Promise Scholarship program for both FY12 and FY13.

At the end of the meeting, Pfitzenreuter was very complimentary of the good work in preparing the Compact/Budget materials (particularly to Colleen) for the meeting. There are some new people at the University in Minneapolis, also; so we really needed to represent ourselves well, and we did.

Campus Fee - Lowell reviewed briefly the definition of how the funds must be spent. Chancellor Johnson proposed that we increase on the low end, by \$35 per student/per semester and connect it to something tangible (as had been suggested by Manjari at the last meeting). In total, the UMM Campus Fee would still be lower than most other University of Minnesota colleges. We would use the incremental funds to underwrite a new UMM One Stop Office. This would be an office modeled after the Twin Cities One Stop (and include the customer services areas of Business Office Cashier/Financial Aid/Registrar all in one place). The increase in the Campus Fee would generate approximately \$150,000, would be used to help fund general resources, staff, etc., and would be something that our students would view as positive. Manjari asked if the System Officers had anything to say about the incremental increase. Chancellor Johnson replied, "They didn't speak in specifics, just that, if we need to increase it we should."

Timna inquired as to where the One Stop office would be set up, what is it, etc. She hasn't heard of it before. Chancellor Johnson explained that it would follow the example in the Twin Cities. The students would go to one place to work with customer service areas of the Business Office Cashier/Financial Aid/Registrar. Also, there is an issue of "No Privacy" the way UMM is set up now. It would be to integrate, as well as to co-locate. A final determination of where the One Stop would be located has not been determined at this time. It will roll up under the umbrella of Financial Aid. Timna then asked how far the \$150,000 would go towards funding that office. Chancellor Johnson believes it would come close to funding an office like that. Timna asked, "Would that office open the same year as the fees go into effect?" Chancellor Johnson replied, "Possibly Fall 2013." Lowell replied there are also placeholders in HEAPR financing for the proposed One Stop office.

Pieranna queried as to whether there were consequences to moving forward with this idea. We have been restricting the increase in number of faculty. Would this be more new administrative people filling positions? Chancellor Johnson replied at least one position would be an existing employee, but it would probably require two new administrative positions. We have been successful in filling several academic areas this year. We are trying to be strategic in filling both academic and administrative areas. Some of the lack of filling academic positions has been because we haven't found successful candidates. Bart's e-mail reflects that we had a successful search year this year. We wouldn't be adding a director position with the One Stop office. It would fall under the existing Financial Aid Director. Andy asked if the requested American Indian Financial Aid Counselor position would fall under the One Stop Office or Financial Aid. The Chancellor replied that this was a very good question, but a final decision has not been made.

Roland asked whether Bart has been involved with the proposed One Stop. There are a lot of people students need to see to accomplish things. The One Stop could be very advantageous for faculty also. Manjari referred to a discussion in the Consultative Committee whereby there is a real concern of students not knowing where to go for services. If you are dealing with issues during a crisis, it's even worse. Students would be in favor of a One Stop Office.

The concept behind a One Stop office is that it is student-centered. Roland commented to Chancellor Johnson that we should have that communication planned to share with faculty so they are able to

guide the student to the correct office. Roland also commented it is disconcerting to reach an office at UMM and to get a recording.

Timna asked, "Is it (Campus Fee) one fee?" Chancellor Johnson replied, "Yes, it is still one fee." Timna said, "Is this a new revenue stream or is it in line with how other campuses use theirs?" The Chancellor replied that she is not familiar with the details for justification and use by other campuses. UMM would justify as indicated under the Campus Fee definition which Lowell read aloud earlier. We have to follow the guidelines. Very few campuses allow students to control student fee money like UMM does. Jill Beauregard is working on the details of the proposed One Stop Office at this time. Roland would guess there are ecological reasons for not having a One Stop previously.

Chancellor Johnson would like to discuss the idea of a One Stop more next week and to get a decision prior to April 5, 2012. She hopes to get us more information on the One Stop before then, discuss raising the Campus Fee, and to determine if we use that increase for the One Stop. Also, should we fund a One Stop Office even if the fee increase isn't approved?

Michael posed the question on whether this committee should be asking whether we approve the One Stop. Mary said she agrees, maybe, but that we should definitely approve the fee. Roland says we should weigh in on it since they are so closely joined.

Another issue is the Cost of Instruction. This is tentatively scheduled to be discussed at the May Board of Regents meeting and UMM is listed as the most expensive as a campus.

Andy asked if we should review the Planning Committee Minutes to see their recommendation. We will request the minutes from Mary Huebner for review. Sheila will add the meeting March 28 to everyone's Google Calendar and make sure we have a meeting room.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting March 28, 2012 @ 1:00 p.m. in the Welcome Center Conference Room