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Finance minutes 02/28/2014

Finance Committee

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UMM Finance Committee Minutes

2.28.14

Members Present:, Michael Korth, Sara Haugen, Pieranna Garavaso, Timna Wyckoff, Ellery Wealot, Brad Deane, Laura Thielke, Mary Zosel, Sam Fettig, Lowell Rasmussen, Jayne Blodgett

Members Absent: Gwen Rudney, Dennis Stewart

Guests: Colleen Miller, Melissa Wroblecki-Note Taker

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes:

No corrections were made to the 2/21/14 minutes.

2. Resource Allocation Review (RAR):

Today the committee returned to discussing the programs that had been designated revisit and reduce or reorganize in the RAR process. The committee agreed that no one had anything to add about the revisit areas remaining after the January 24th meeting, and agreed to jump right in to the reduce or reorganize areas.

- Acad 15 German
 - Currently the German major has been changed to a German Studies major.
- Acad 16 Global Student Teaching and English Language Teaching Assistant
 - Steps are being taken to cut expenses and reshape the program.
- Admin 42 Computing Services – Support
 - There were proposals to have Morris’ helpdesk calls go to the 1-HELP line in the Twin Cities for after hour calls, but Morris is trying to find a more effective and efficient way to help students/staff/faculty that call the Help Desk after hours.
- Admin 50 Education – GST and ELTAP
 - Was a duplicate from Acad 16.
- Admin 55 OTR – EMS
 - This is the room reservation system. A new system for room reservations has already been implemented. The Twin Cities campus adopted a new system and UMM adopted it also. Some people feel that the new system is much worse and not very efficient at all.
- SSrvcs 36 Community Engagement Awards
 - This is one event. The response was to reduce the number of FTE’s assigned to the program but without any actual reduction in employees at UMM. While this makes the program look better in the RAR, it raises questions about the validity of FTE assignments that were submitted in RAR.

After finishing the review of the “reduce or reorganize” areas, the committee was asked what lessons were learned from this review process. Should the outcome have been different? What steps do we recommend? Should a review like this be repeated?

- Committee Responses:
 - Is there a better mechanism for reporting by support and administrative areas? We need to have a more effective way of monitoring each department or unit.
 - Using the same rubric across the board was not a good practice.
 - The process created a lot of anxiety on campus.
 - There should not be two systems of measure. Academic Support areas need to have quantitative data to describe their outcomes just as academic departments do. Even though academic and administrative units cannot use the same measuring rubrics, both should still be required to have quantitative data to show.
 - Reports need to be customized per unit to be effective because units can be doing very different tasks.
 - There was not enough guidance in the process or in the instructions to the different units. If the instructions were clearer about what was wanted in each section, the results may have come out differently.
 - Back when support and administrative units submitted annual reports, what happened to them? Who took in the information and who used it? They did not appear to be used.
 - There are three areas of our University: mission, mission support, and leadership and oversight. Leadership feels they have learned a lot from all the reports that have been turned in to them. This campus may be looking at bringing back annual reviews for all areas of the campus, but to do this would need direction and assistance from each unit to have valid usable data. One of the recommendations from the 2010 Self Study Report said these should be brought back and made useful.
 - What kinds of data should each unit track? It would be nice for everyone to know this ahead of time, and then collect the data going forward.
 - Committee members felt it is important for one of the outcomes of the RAR to be the realization that work needs to be done to identify what data some units on campus need to track in order to document their effectiveness and efficiency. Data requirements need to be thought about carefully. Not all data is quantitative. Not all quantitative data is useful.

Remember that the Budget Compact Meeting is March 10th. Lowell also noted that the comments made from this committee were taken into consideration when trying to come up with a balanced budget.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting is March 28th, 2014 in Sci 2555 at 2:10 pm.