

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN – FLINT

February 13, 2008

TO: University of Michigan – Flint Faculty and Staff

FROM: Vahid Lotfi, Interim Provost

SUBJECT: Update from Academic Affairs

On January 18, Dr. Amy Fugate, the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Mott Community College (MCC) and I sponsored a half-day retreat for our respective deans and associate deans. The goals of the retreat were for the two institutions' senior academic leadership to get to know one another, to identify programs that have been working well, areas that might need further attention, and to identify possible areas for future collaboration. The retreat was an historic development because it was the first of its kind for our respective institutions. There were 21 people in attendance. By the end of the day, several great ideas emerged and the deans agreed to have a follow up meeting in May.

The Chancellor Search Advisory Committee and Search Consultant have begun the process to review and screen applicant materials received in response to search and recruiting activities to date. This process will continue over the next several weeks. Following this screening, the Committee will conduct initial interviews and referencing, and forward recommendations to University of Michigan President, Mary Sue Coleman. President Coleman will invite candidates to visit Flint and Ann Arbor for wide-ranging meetings with different constituencies. Upon conclusion of candidate visits and retrieving feedback, it is hoped that an announcement of the new Chancellor could be made by summer. Nominations continue to be accepted and can be submitted to Steve Leo (s.leo@storbeckpimentel.com) or Search Advisory Committee Chair Keith Moreland (moreland@umflint.edu).

The Facility Management Department is scheduling a day of preventive maintenance electrical work on the electrical distribution system of the Flint Campus. The date and time will be **Sunday, April 27, from 7:00 A.M. to 6:30 P.M.** There will be **no electrical power to all of the buildings south of the river except UPAV and Ross House.** Buildings affected include: Hubbard, Murchie Science Bldg., UCEN, RCEN, Thompson Library and Theater, the Central Energy Plant, French Hall, the parking ramps, Security HQ, and any other structures south of the river. Please contact Joe Torr, 766-6704, if you have questions or need additional information.

The University of Michigan-Flint was recently named to the **2007 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.** This distinction which comes from the highest levels of government recognizes UM-Flint's leadership in helping to build a culture of service and civic engagement on campus and across the nation. UM-Flint will be recognized with other honorees at the annual meeting of the American Council on Education (ACE) in San Diego this month. This is a wonderful recognition of the efforts of our faculty, staff, and students and our collective commitment to engaged citizenship. Please join me in thanking Renee Zientek for her efforts in leading the application process.

General Education Update – Implementation of the new general education program is progressing smoothly. A General Education Forum and Governing Faculty Meeting were held on December 11, 2007. Interim Chancellor Kay (who was ill) and I affirmed the high priority that we have placed on the General Education renewal initiative by increasing the current GE development budget by \$30,000. During the forum, faculty worked in small groups to respond to the concept of an inter-unit General Education curriculum committee proposed by Faculty Council and AAAC. Ideas were put forward regarding the potential charge, scope, and composition of such a group. I am now working with appropriate groups to devise a formal proposal based on faculty response generated at the forum. A meeting of the Governing Faculties, immediately following the forum, endorsed the proposed Student

Learning Outcomes for General Education for approval by each academic unit. These outcomes were then sent to each academic unit for official approval. As of this writing, SOM, SHPS^[1] and SEHS have approved the document. CAS has yet to report.

At the **March 28th Governing Faculty meeting**, a vote will be taken to determine whether the University of Michigan-Flint should adopt the First Year Experience (FYE) as a mandatory feature of its General Education program beginning with newly enrolled freshman in Fall, 2008. We ask that all who intend to vote avail themselves of the opportunities to become fully informed on the local and national research on the benefits of FYE programs. Video interviews with the faculty who have been teaching these courses are available for viewing at the GE website. More on progress of general education reform is presented in the update from TCLT below.

College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)

Professor Rudy Hernandez from Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, received the Michigan Campus Compact Faculty Community Service-Learning Award at the 12th Annual Michigan Campus Compact Institute dinner on Thursday, February 7, at Central Michigan University Campus! This is indeed a significant accomplishment. Please join me in congratulating Rudy and thanking Melissa Stephens-Farrell from the Center for Civic Engagement for nominating Rudy.

Computer Science, Engineering Science and Physics – The proposed B.S. in Mechanical Engineering has been approved by the CAS governing faculty. The proposal has been submitted to AAAC and CAC/BSP for review. The department has partnered with Lapeer Intermediate Schools to launch a pre-engineering program in fall 2008. Professor Quamrul H. Mazumder (with H., Shirazi, and B. McLaury) has published, “Experimental Investigation of the Location of Maximum Erosive Wear Damage in Elbows”, *Journal of Pressure Vessel and Technology*, vol. 130, no. 1, February 2008. He has also had one conference paper entitled, “Globalization of Engineering Education: Are We Preparing Students to Succeed in the Global Economy?” accepted by: AC 2008-752, ASEE Annual Conference, June 24-27, 2008, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

The "Middle Eastern" Studies Program has been awarded an *Ethics in Public Life Initiative* grant from the Office of the President, which is being used to fund an *Ethics in Public Life* Lecture Series this year: "Perspectives on Ethics from the Middle East". The third Lecture Event will be on Thursday, February 21, 2008, at 1:00 PM in the Michigan Rooms with guest speaker Professor Marcia Inhorn of the University of Michigan. The title of her talk is "Making Muslim Babies: The Ethics of IVF and Gamete Donation in Sunni and Shi'a Islam".

Department of History - The University of Georgia Press has offered Assistant Professor Ami Pflugrad-Jackisch an advanced book contract for her manuscript *Brothers of a Vow: Secret Fraternal Orders and the Transformation of White Male Culture in Antebellum Virginia*. Dr. Pflugrad-Jackisch will also be presenting her research at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians this March in New York City.

Department of Philosophy - Storrs McCall, in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, Volume 76, Issue 1, pp 25-228, Jan 2008, provided a highly favorable review of Professor Nathan Oaklander's book, *The Ontology of Time*, Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2004. Pp. 366. In addition, Professor Oaklander has recently published two more articles: “Be Careful What You Wish For: A Reply to Craig,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 76, 1 (January 2008): 156-163; and “B-Time: A Reply to Tallant,” co-authored with V. Alan White, *Analysis*, 67, 4 (October 2007): 332-340.

School of Education and Human Services (SEHS)

^[1] Some alternate language for outcomes in Writing was suggested.

The School of Education and Human Services is actively engaged in completing its strategic plan. The new Special Education concentration within the MA in Education is achieving great success. The math education dual enrolment course at West Wood Heights has been a major accomplishment and deserves recognition.

School of Health Professions and Studies (SHPS)

Department of Nursing - The Department of Nursing is expanding opportunities for students to study abroad. Experiences are established consistent with a service learning model. Through the provision of service based on the needs and priorities identified by the community and organization, nursing students will have opportunities to advance their knowledge and skills in the areas of cultural competency, critical thinking, evidenced based nursing practice, communication, and professionalism. The emphasis on service learning in the design and implementation of nursing study abroad experiences will help participants to become life-long learners, and active citizens in our global world. Professor Maureen Tippen has led study abroad experiences for nursing students to the Dominican Republic on a yearly basis and to Peru in recent years. This June she will be traveling with students to Cambodia. Two additional experiences are in the planning stages. Professor Tippen and Professor Knecht traveled to Kenya in November to establish partnerships with health care facilities and orphanages. Dean Agho and Professor Linda Knecht will be traveling to the Andhra Pradesh region of India in March to plan faculty/student exchange experiences with the NRI Hospital.

Physical Therapy - The transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy degree proposal is moving forward to the Presidents Council. The generous grant from OEL to support initial implementation of this fully online degree program will enable the PT Department to move forward quickly with program implementation.

Health Sciences and Administration - HSA had a mini-retreat in December and the faculty plan to move forward on a number of initiatives consistent with SHPS strategic plan. They include: minor in public health; change the name of the Medical Technology program to Clinical Laboratory Sciences; and exploring new concentrations/certificate programs in health communications, global health, and health information systems. Further, HSA has had preliminary conversations with Genesys about a new (possible joint Master's degree with SEHS) for those who are involved in offering graduate medical education. All of these are being considered with no definite timeline, at this point.

Nursing Workforce Diversity Project - SHPS is very pleased with the outcomes of the UM-Flint Initiatives for Nursing Diversity (UM-FIND) project, a nursing workforce diversity project funded by HRSA in 2005. The primary objective of the project is to increase the diversity and cultural competency of nurses by providing disadvantaged/minority students at all educational level (i.e., middle, high school, associate, and baccalaureate) with the academic and social skills to successfully compete for admission, progression, and graduation from the BSN program at the University of Michigan-Flint. In addition, the UM-FIND project staff is collaborating with the SHPS Diversity Development Committee to host the **2nd Annual SHPS Cultural Competence week on March 3-6, 2008**. The focus of the program is to increase the understanding of the importance of cultural competence and the value of providing culturally appropriate health services. All UM-Flint faculty, staff, and students are welcome. For a flyer and further information, please visit the following Web site. <http://www.umflint.edu/shps/umfind/umfind.htm>.

School of Management (SOM)

On Sunday, February 16, 2008, the School of Management will host a Hockey Day at Perani Arena for various constituents. There will be a pre-game party in a private suite with the University of Michigan-Flint Hockey Club's final game of the season to follow. Also, Professor Taghaboni-Dutta, along with co-author Professor Velthouse, had their paper "E-Learning, Virtual Universities, and Academic Leadership" accepted for publishing in the *Journal of the World Universities Forum*.

Acting Associate Provost Corner

Graduate Programs - We have experienced a record winter enrollment of 1,055 students, the first time we have gone over the 1000 headcount mark in the winter semester. Most programs experienced an enrollment increase or stayed relatively flat from last year. Growth in new students was much higher than the increase in overall enrollment (an astounding 72% increase in new students; 8% increase overall). Growth in applications year-to-year was nearly 100%, with most programs experiencing triple-digit increases mostly due to the surge from international students.

The MS in Computer and Information Systems program experienced the largest percentage increase in one year of all graduate programs with over 133% growth, mostly due to a significant increase in the number of international students. The MA in Social Sciences program experienced 36% growth in just one year. The School of Management increased their non-degree enrollment by over 400%, and most of these students plan to enroll in the MBA program in Spring or Fall. International graduate student enrollment is up 142% over last year and international students now make up 5.5% of total graduate student headcount (up from 2.5% in Winter 2007 and 3.7 in Fall 2007).

New graduate programs - we have a number of new graduate programs in various stages of the approval process including a Doctor of Nursing Practice (recently approved by the Presidents Council), transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy, transitional clinical Doctor of Physical Therapy, and Certificate Programs in Physical Therapy all to be offered on-line; a BS/MS in Chemistry or Biochemistry, and a new MLS track in Theatre and Community. A Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) and a Masters in Arts Management are in the planning stages. A Masters Degree in Mathematics is also in the planning stages.

Office of Research - There has been a successful conclusion to our search for a Sponsored Research and Programs Director at the University of Michigan-Flint. Dr. John Callewaert has joined us in this capacity and has been part of the UM-Flint community since January 14th. He is already hard at work sending us all research opportunities and will be announcing new initiatives of the Office of Research soon. Dr. Callewaert holds a Ph.D. in Resource Policy and Behavior from the School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan Ann Arbor. He also holds a M.A. in Social Ethics from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering Technology from Michigan State. Special thanks go to the Search Committee headed by Madhu Angur and including Peggy Roddy, Marty Kaufman, Mary Jo Finney, Joseph Sucic, John Sonnega and Mary Deibis. They did a wonderful job with a great result!

The Office of Research and the Research Creative Activities Committee (RCAC) would like to announce the **Winter 2008 Call for Proposals which are due in the Office of Research on Monday, March 10, 2008, at 5:00 p.m.** Please note that all proposals must be submitted in hard copy and electronically. Please follow the guidelines located on our website at: http://www.umflint.edu/research/faculty_funding/RCAC_guidelines.htm. If you have any questions or need assistance please feel free to contact the Office of Research, 762-3383. The Office of Research has a new website, <http://www.umflint.edu/research/>

Information Technology Services Update - Mediated Classroom Services has installed the new Creston mediated equipment in the four classrooms located on the second floor of French Hall. This technology replaces the Smartcart mediated technology in classrooms. The interface is much easier for faculty and students to use and allows our MCS technicians to remotely anticipate and troubleshoot problems in the classrooms which allow users to focus on their presentation and not the technology. We will have the third floor general classrooms outfitted with this equipment by the end of Winter semester. Also, the new wireless network is now operational in French Hall. This new network brings the latest in wireless technology to our users utilizing the 802.11 a, b and g standards. In February we are starting our Security 101 exam for students. This program is in part funded by Information Technology Security Services in Ann

Arbor. The goal is to make students aware of various risks associated with using technology and how they can protect themselves. This year our grand prizes include a Dell Laptop, an Apple Macintosh Laptop, an Apple iPod Touch, and a Nintendo Wii.

Assistant Provost for Academic Assessment and Institutional Accreditation

Meetings with the Assessment Committee - This year, the Academic Assessment Committee has invited all programs and departments to attend the meeting in which the committee reviews the current implementation report. After the completion of several of these meetings, it was a unanimous agreement that the benefits are great. Everyone involved is finding them rewarding and a wonderful opportunity to better understand assessment in the individual departments. Please take advantage of this opportunity when your department is invited, I think you will agree it was thirty minutes well spent!!

HLC Reaccreditation Self-Study – In preparation for the reaccreditation by the **Higher Learning Commission (HLC)**, the Self-Study Committee, made up of 65 faculty, staff, students, and community members, has finished writing the second draft of the Self-Study Report and has turned it over to the Steering Committee who will begin their editing process. It is the goal of the Steering Committee to send a first draft of the Self-Study Report out for campus-wide feedback by mid-March. We will be asking everyone on campus to read the full report or at least portions of it. In an effort to support feedback, there will be an electronic form on the Self-Study website for those wishing to use it, as well as other mechanisms for feedback. The Steering Committee would like to thank everyone for their continued hard work and dedication throughout this process.

Other Units within Academic Affairs

Office of Undergraduate Admissions - An efficient mode of work continues in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The ‘buzz’ which quickly emerged following the housing groundbreaking ceremony dovetailed into several very successful recruitment events this summer and fall. A recent Financial Aid event is especially noteworthy with nearly 400 guests in attendance on the eve of a major snow storm. We have major yield activities scheduled and are working collaboratively and transparently with colleagues across campus. In addition to yield events, we have campus tours scheduled during the week and on weekends and anxiously await approval of ‘hard hat’ tours of the Residence Hall. We are hiring, retaining, and developing staff as we seek to meet key enrollment goals (domestic and international). Other significant initiatives include but are not limited to: Face-to-Face via the web – Spring High School Counselor Web Conferences; additional schools added to visitation schedule; scheduled bus trips to campus; opening office at Mott Community College; and Goal Quest enhancements. To date, UG Admissions is up 24% in freshmen applications, 34% in freshman admits, and 30% in enrollment deposits. We have denied admission to 150% more students as compared to this time last year which reflects our strong commitment to upholding academic standards.

Office of Institutional Analysis - The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is currently underway and will be sent via email to all freshman and seniors. In addition, the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) will start in March and be sent to all faculty. Your cooperation in encouraging participation by both students and faculty would be appreciated immensely.

International and Global Studies Program - Marc Boucher, Head of Post of the Québec Delegation in Chicago, will visit campus on **Tuesday, March 18, 2008**. He will give a public talk at **4:00 p.m. in Michigan Room D**. His talk is entitled “Québec in North America : Nation-Building in Canada,” and is open to all. To bring an entire class, please contact [M. Hilton-Watson](#). In addition to his public appearance, he will also meet with French-speaking members of the faculty to discuss the status of French studies, and specifically of French-Canadian studies at the University.

Study Abroad Insurance/International Travel Registry - Study abroad is indeed a rewarding experience. To render this type of worthwhile activity even more attractive to our students, UM-Flint now requires the purchase of study abroad health insurance of all undergraduates, and of certain graduate participants. At a very low price, this insurance offers the traveler benefits that surpass her normal local coverage. In particular, most standard health insurance policies do not provide for medical transportation from country to country. Although incidents abroad are rare, it has become a “best practice” to institutionalize the health coverage of students who travel with a university’s blessing. Please refer to the following Web site for additional information.

<http://www.umflint.edu/news/articles/40/1/University-to-Offer-Health-Insurance-to-International-Travelers/Page1.html> . Please register your University-related foreign travel at

<http://www.umich.edu/~itoc/>, which is a UM-based travel registry, accessible only by select University officials.

Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching - This year’s UM-Flint conference on assessment, *Sharing Expectations: Perspectives on Assessment*, is scheduled for **Friday, March 7, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.** The day will begin with a panel discussion featuring a mentor from the Higher Learning Commission, a faculty member addressing issues of academic freedom in the assessment climate, and Terry Rhodes from the national office of AAC&U. Though this day is not focused solely on General Education, developing viable assessment mechanisms for the *Learning Communities and Effective Citizenship* program is a critical component of our General Education revitalization. The premier issue of *The Scholarship of Teaching* featuring articles from faculty, staff, and administration addressing matters of teaching and learning on our campus is now available. *The Scholarship of Teaching* is an internal publication of professional candor including original essays, commentaries and articles exploring the compelling, perplexing, and inspiring aspects of our work in and outside the classroom. Previously published original articles may be reprinted with permission. **Deadline for the next issue is March 3, 2008.** Please submit your manuscript electronically to mjfinney@umflint.edu or in hard copy to Mary Jo Finney, TCLT, 241 French Hall.

Announcing – *Teaching Observations* that provide in-depth, personal and confidential feedback about teaching are available to all faculty members. Conducted as a detailed, non-participant observation, the report will provide narrative evaluation with specific suggestions for advancing one’s teaching based on individual style, the nature of specific course content, and desired course outcomes. Contact Mary Jo Finney, Director of the TCLT, to schedule an observation or to discuss your teaching needs.

Mark your calendars for **Monday, March 31st** when the Office of the Vice Chancellor for SSEM and the TCLT will feature a full day conference, "Teaching Troubled Students." Keynote speaker, Gary Pavela, will address the difficult - and critically important - aspects of understanding, teaching, and supporting students with mental health issues. Look for more information and registration details in the weeks ahead.

General Education Update (Continued) - A series of twenty-four Focus Sessions on a variety of General Education topics, scheduled for the winter 2008 semester, are underway. Two sessions are held weekly and focus specifically on disciplines within and across suites, governance, the First Year Experience pilots, civic engagement, and pilot suites. Your active participation in these Focus Sessions is critical to the reform work and will inform your vote. Videos of these sessions are available on the GE website as are written summaries of the proceedings. Sub-committees of the Design Team are gathering data and working on recommendations to the faculty on the following aspects of the plan which will be shared in additional Focus Sessions prior to the end of this academic year: Capstone Courses; Civic Engagement; Implications for Transfer Students.

Suites of Courses - Suites of Courses are the current topic of discussion in the January and February Focus Sessions. The four pilot suites offered in winter, 2008, have provided interesting insight into enrollment patterns revealing the difficulties in piloting un-mandated General Education elements.

Though a few students have enrolled in two of the three courses offered in a suite, no students enrolled in ALL THREE courses in any suite. Nonetheless, faculty are meeting to explore curriculum development ideas presented by consultant William Newell of Miami of Ohio during a site visit November 14, 2007. Two additional suites are under preparation for spring/summer, 2008: How Money Works (Economics, Finance, and Quantitative Reasoning); and Health and Well-Being (Health and Well-being). An additional suite is being developed in the natural sciences (Science and Technology) for possible offering in fall, 2008. Faculty who are developing suites will present their work at Focus Sessions held on April 1st, 2nd, 8th & 9th. We encourage faculty advisors to inform students of the opportunity to enroll in the upcoming suites. Information detailing the suites will be circulated prior to the registration period. Once again, we encourage everyone to become informed about this substantial component of the *Learning Communities and Effective Citizenship* program. We are appreciative of the on-going support from the Registrar, Academic Advising, and the Office of Institutional Advancement in this endeavor.

Women's Educational Center - The Women's Educational Center has been awarded \$12,000 as a partner in a grant received by the City of Flint Police Department from the US Department of Justice. Along with the YWCA of Greater Flint, the WEC will offer a drop-in support group for women students that will focus on relationship issues and domestic violence as part of a comprehensive victim assistance program for the City of Flint.

The next update will be released in approximately two months.
Vahid.
