

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

Directors Meeting

**Thursday, December 16, 2010
4:00 p.m. – Michigan Room D**

~ *Minutes* ~

Members Present: Dan Adams, Scott Arnst, Roy Barnes, Kimberley Buster-Williams, Bob Hahn, Jonathan Jarosz, Vahid Lotfi, Brad Maki, Sandra Morgan Jones, Derwin Munroe (*for Ananth Aiyer*), Michelle Rosynsky and Fawn Skarsten

Members Absent: Bob Houbeck, Maureen Thum, Terry Van Allen, Deb White, and Jan Worth-Nelson

Gerard called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

GEC Data Endeavors – Data Collection Plan ► Bob reported that this year GEC administration has had the opportunity to work with Columbia University’s ENCREST, who assisted them in collecting and analyzing information regarding the performance of GEC students in comparison to over 30 other early colleges across the nation. This effort precipitated the desire to examine and gather additional information in order to develop a plan regarding questions that they would like answered and what they would like to focus on in the future. The plan includes the following areas: Pre-Admission to GEC; Student Demographic Data; Student Achievement; Graduate Follow-Up; and, Perceptions and Attitudes Regarding GEC and GEC Students. Bob provided a handout detailing questions that they have targeted and data collection sources.

GEC Data Endeavors – Aspirations for GEC ► Sandra explained that some time ago, a collaborative meeting was held with GISD, key UM-Flint administration, and GEC and they began to identify desirable goals and distinctive characteristics, both short and long-term, which resulted in a list that she disseminated. Some of the goals included increased enrollment, with a target of 250 (current enrollment is approximately 150); continuation of a comprehensive program of skill development and remediation but to include more units and departments as well as Ann Arbor; space considerations especially as they grow; the provision of extracurricular activities for their students, and many others that were identified. Sandra concluded by answering a few questions and indicating that they want to make sure that GEC is as much of a part of UM-Flint experience as possible.

Experiential Learning Across Campus ► Jonathan indicated that in the past the notion was trying to think of how civic engagement and experiential learning fits into what we have now. Often times it is discussed as something extra; however, we are making efforts to show that that is what we already do. We need to enhance civic engagement and experiential learning and embed it within our current curriculum. Jonathan provided a diagram of a model showing the stages of a student’s course of study proposing where civic engagement/experiential learning should interface with general education. He indicated that studies show that employers are not only looking for students who are trained and qualified; but also, who have characteristics such as poise, confidence, knowing how to collaborate, communication etc. and those come from exposure to experiential learning.

Gerard added that we not only want our students to master the material that we teach them, but be able to apply what they have learned in real life experiences. We need experiential learning clarified, and enhance and augment our general education program. We know this but do not have an infrastructure to implement it yet. The plan is to take this before AAAC, Faculty Council, and Governing Faculty. In the end, if we believe that civic engagement is one of the three pillars of this University, then we need to support those engagements.

Jonathan answered questions regarding how this fits in with transfer students in terms of how it would fit into their academic timelines. Gerard talked about “keystone workshops” that he developed at another university which focuses on a specific theme and are very intensive as a possibility of helping to address this. He explained that civic engagement is only one facet; there are many others such as internship, coops, research, service learning, etc. Experiential learning was also discussed in terms of the graduate program. Brad indicated that it is built into the program in various ways. Gerard mentioned that he would love to see graduate students serve as mentors but realizes how tough that would be.

Marshaling Our Resources ► Roy explained that from a previous meeting, the suggestion was made to find ways that the Directors Group could assist in taking on one project as a team. Roy indicated that, as Coordinator of General Education, he thought of a way that this could be done. He explained that there is a need to focus on capstone courses and experiences in the new GE Reform and with the wealth of experience and knowledge of the Directors, they could assist in enhancing these courses. He used some of the departments as examples of what they could provide as an enhancement for a capstone course. He also provided a handout explaining the program and inviting directors to submit proposals regarding what their office could offer to enhance learning within one or more of the three required outcomes for all GE capstone courses. Roy offered to do the leg-work in taking these proposals to faculty and for creating a “catalog” of resources that are available. The faculty can then decide what they would like to include. There was much discussion including collaborative student research. Gerard indicated that he is very supportive of the Call for Proposals and reiterated that there is much expertise among staff that would be extremely valuable.

Matters Arising – Catalyst Program Report ► Gerard disseminated a report on behalf of Jan Worth-Nelson, Director/TCLT, who could not attend the meeting. He urged members to review the report and address any questions that they may have to Jan.

Matters Arising ►

Vahid reported that he and Gerard attended the Wayne County Community College Signing Ceremony where two articulation agreements were finalized: one with our BSN Program and, if qualified, the Doctor of Nursing Practice; the other with our BBA Program as well as a University Center business agreement. He indicated that the collaboration was a great experience and we hope that we can develop additional agreements with them as well.

Roy said that General Education is moving along nicely and his proposal to GECAC was approved and we just attended a very energized workshop.

Sandra mentioned that this last year was the first GEC Graduation and already they are hearing good things from their graduates in terms of how much further they are ahead of their peers and how grateful they are to have had the GEC experience.

Scott reported that his unit developed a system for Mary Jo Sekelsky where students use their M-Cards when they go to an event and then Academic Advising can track the engagements of students. Advising reported that this is a great help.

Fawn reported that the Office of Institutional Analysis’ internal resource web page has been updated recently to include the Institutional Snapshot used for strategic planning. Gerard indicated that the Snapshot is a wonderful document with all kinds of information, charts, graphs, etc. He requested that a

hard copy be routed among the Directors for their use. The student survey data for the Freshman Survey and NSSE results have also been added. Fawn indicated that the NSSE results are now available by discipline and the Freshman Survey has two new reports, themes and contracts. Results can be viewed via the Internal Resource links on her web site.

Brad announced that the Doctorate of Anesthesia and the Master of Science in Nursing have been approved by the accrediting bodies with the applications to the Higher Learning Commission going out soon. We do expect a site visit. In addition, the Master in Public Health has been approved on campus and has now been submitted to the Presidents Council and the Board of Regents.

Dan explained that after grueling work, the J-1 Visitor and Scholar Exchange Program is now available through our campus without having to go through Ann Arbor. He indicated that this makes it easier for students that are required to come on a J-1 scholarship.

Gerard mentioned that he would like to see the recruitment for international students to ramp up. Right now we have approximately 3% of students international and he would like to see 10% which would require a lot of work but is doable.

Jonathan reported that regarding service learning based courses supported by University Outreach, last semester there were 45. For this semester, Outreach is currently supporting 30 with an additional 20 outstanding requests.

Michelle reported that WEC has teamed up with Student Life and LGBT regarding a social networking calendar. January and February there are opportunities for experiential learning.

Derwin indicated that in their most recent IGS Meeting discussion included the possibility of offering an FYE course, the speaker series, and a comprehensive and integrated program on study abroad.

Kim reported that Admissions is working and meeting with Wayne Community College and Oakland Community College to keep relations going and will be meeting with Delta College in the near future. She also said that John Fruner has joined Admissions in taking Kim Butka's place. Kimberley and Diane Fuselier-Thompson will be presenting at the 2011 AACRAO Transfer Conference in New Orleans in January. They were notified that their conference proposal was accepted earlier this month. The session title is *Achieving Vertical Diversity Through the Development of Articulation Agreements*. The presentation will explore strategies for increasing campus diversity through the development of articulation agreements between two- and four-year institutions, while also exploring strategies for successful institutional support for non-traditional transfer students in areas of critical shortage.

Gerard concluded the meeting by asking if the Directors would like the Minutes posted on the Provost web site; there was consensus to do so.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.