UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

AAAC
Academic Affairs Advisory Committee

Friday, November 14, 2014
11:00 a.m. – Lapeer Room

~ Minutes ~

Members Present: Ricardo Alfaro, Darryl Baird (Chair), Connie Creech, Chris Douglas, Weiqi Li, Nakshidil Sadien, and Gerard Voland

Absent: Aviva Dorfman and Tom Wrobel

Chair Baird called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed Student Representative and President of Student Government Nakshidil Sadien as a member of AAAC.

Review of Minutes ~ October 10 and October 24, 2014 ► The Minutes of October 10 and October 24, 2014 were approved as written.

Discussion took place regarding adjusting upcoming AAAC Meetings in light of the holiday season.

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<th>Action: The following adjustments were made in upcoming AAAC Meetings and all of them will be held in the Lapeer Room as follows:</th>
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<td>* Wednesday, November 26  9:00 to 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>* Friday, December 12  10:00 to 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>* Friday, December 19  9:00 to 10:30 a.m.</td>
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Provost Update ► Provost Voland had no update to provide.

Faculty Council Report ► In his absence, Tom provided an email Faculty Council report to Darryl noting that a Title IX presentation regarding process was provided at the recent Governing Faculty Meeting. The Chancellor has met with Faculty Council twice discussing the following:

- **Update on External Review of School of Nursing Proposal** ~ Faculty Council was told that the consultant is engaged and they should expect a report by mid-December.

- **Strategic Planning** ~ The Chancellor is seeking three or four priorities from faculty via the Town Hall Meetings. One meeting occurred on Monday, November 10 and the other will be held today.

- **Student Graduation and Retention Rates** ~ Darryl noted that Higher Education is making more of a priority on this topic. Ricardo added that research shows that a student’s GPA will determine the success of a student at the university level regarding whether that student will complete their program of study or drop out. Gerard indicated that we are beginning to look at factors that affect our transfer students.
• **Number of Programs at UM-Flint** – Conversation ensued regarding the number of programs at both the graduate level and undergraduate level that have been added over the last few years. We need to begin looking at our programs in terms of questioning whether those programs that are not progressing should be eliminated or could they be further supported and/or modified. We tend to add programs for enrollment growth; however, increased enrollment can be accomplished by retention, although it is also important to have an appropriate mix of programs. When contemplating the addition of a new program, departments and/or units should make a careful review of their current programs regarding whether they could be strengthened which could take the form of: down-sizing, combining, developing another track, making more current, and/or making more valuable.

Another comment was that sometimes we award degrees but need to ensure that students have a career path or are aware of their career path. That needs to be imbedded in the curriculum but the development of career paths can also serve as marketing tools.

Discussion took place regarding who is responsible for reviewing and/or strengthening programs. Gerard noted that at Presidents Council many of the 15 publics put forward proposals for closing programs; however, since he has attended, we have not had any. Each of the units have their own program review process. In addition, Chris has been increasing the pace of undergraduate reviews. We have had a habit that when weak programs are reviewed, and they seek additional time, that time is given to them. For new programs, we need to revisit them within a certain amount of time to assess their success.

Discussion occurred regarding the value of accreditation and how it should not be viewed as something negative. Reaccreditation gives the program leverage and, in addition, feedback is good.

**Action:** A suggestion was made to have Chris Waters provide AAAC a brief overview of the status and plans for program review at the undergraduate level.

• Faculty Council received their report on the software purchase from the Technology Committee and addressed the issue of campus software integration with Senior Vice Provost Lotfi.

**Curriculum Committee Report** – Chris reported that the Curriculum Committee met for the first time and drafted guidelines for their committee. For purposes of dealing with course duplication, the Committee developed a form/process to address an issue and make a recommendation as they arise. They have determined that if a course duplication issue arises that is intra-unit, the issue needs to be handled by the unit committee and not the Curriculum Committee.

Much conversation took place regarding the responsibility of the Committee. Some thought that the Curriculum Committee should be reviewing ALL courses to determine where there is course duplication and dealing with it; however, the consensus of AAAC was that they should only be involved when issues are brought to their attention through the form/process that they developed primarily because it would be impossible to review all courses and make a determination and also because there is some duplication where departments on both sides are fine with it and there is no need for intervention.

**Action:** Chris was asked to provide the charge of the Curriculum Committee to Darryl so that it can be shared with AAAC.
Review and Discussion of the MA in Communication ▶ Darryl indicated that AAAC needs to review the newly developed MA in Communication prior to seeking Presidents Council approval. Darryl asked if anyone had any issues with the proposal.

**Action:** Much discussion took place with the following items that AAAC would like clarified prior to approving the proposal:

* Since the proposal is geared toward attracting the professional rather than the academic student, what experience does the Communication faculty have in dealing with companies? They did not think that it was evident in the faculty vitae.
* Did the proposers check with the Office of Extended Learning to make sure that the program could be offered in other states?
* What is the rationale for offering scholarships to fund online fees of students and where will that funding come from?
* The budget reflects an unrealistically low amount of funding for marketing; how will they afford to market the program?

MTA Concerns ▶ Darryl explained that there is a large concern in the College of Arts and Sciences regarding General Education and the large block of courses that the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) represents. Gerard indicated that there is unanimous support for MTA and it has been passed in all of the other 14 public universities. In addition, the President agreed to accept the block of 30 credits to designate for MTA for all three campuses. Darryl reported that CAS was the last unit to approve it on the UM-Flint campus which occurred on Wednesday. All agreed that there might be some latitude within category to fulfill the six discipline areas of: Humanities, English Composition, First Year Experience, Social Science, Quantitative Literacy, and Natural Science.

Budget Discussion ▶

Darryl reported that Lois Alexander, Adam Lutzker, and himself will be meeting to talk about coordination of budget discussions.

Matters Arising ▶ Nakshidil indicated that she will be providing a report to the student constituency following the approval of minutes from each meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.