

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

AAAC

Academic Affairs Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 5, 2017

3:00 p.m. – Grad Programs Conference Room

~ *Minutes* ~

- Members Present:** Jan Furman, Aviva Dorfman (via conference phone), Doug Knerr, Dan Lair (Chair), Marilyn McFarland, and Rie Suzuki
- Absent:** Ricardo Alfaro, Sy Banerjee, Tamim Reza, and Jie Song
- Guest:** Fawn Skarsten, Director/Institutional Analysis

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Dan Lair.

Because of Tamim's winter class schedule, another student representative will be selected to serve on AAAC for the remainder of the academic year.

HERI (Higher Education Research Institute) Survey ► Fawn Skarsten disseminated a copy of the 2016-17 HERI Faculty Survey Core National Instrument. She indicated that every three years HERI offers a survey for faculty. She explained that we have an opportunity to participate and garner national benchmark information regarding our faculty. She reported that the Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty is willing to forgo their internal survey in place of the HERI Faculty Survey for this year. Fawn said that she was seeking AAAC's support and input to do so. The cost is \$3,500 to administer to all full- and part-time faculty with no incentives. There are other options such as the ability to ask additional questions and/or to include specific theme modules at an additional cost. The Committee reviewed the instrument asking various questions and exploring some options. There was consensus to support the administration of the HERI Faculty Survey with the addition of the Mentoring Module and also to seek input from the Committee on the Economic Status of Faculty in terms of possibly coming up with some additional questions. If additional questions are proposed, they will be vetted by AAAC. Fawn reported that the administration target timeline is mid-Winter because the survey has to be complete no later than April 15.

Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2016 ► A motion was made and supported to approve the Minutes of December 15, as written. Motion carried.

Provost Report ► Provost Knerr disseminated a report of the AAUP visitation. He indicated that the report was well done; there are a few concerns that should be addressed sometime in the future. He added that appendix documents, "Academic Freedom Primer" and "Good Practice in Tenure Evaluation" are very interesting and said that members can feel free to share those with their colleagues. Discussion ensued.

Provost Knerr also announced that the official start date of the Strategic Planning process will begin tomorrow.

Faculty Council Report ► Jan indicated that because Faculty Council has not met since AAAC's last meeting, she has no report.

Academic Calendar Scheduling Guidelines ► The Academic Calendar Scheduling Guidelines agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

System for Syllabi Availability Discussion – Any Updates? ► The following updates were provided:

- Marilyn reported that the School of Nursing was receptive to making previous syllabi available via the Library. She indicated that because archiving all syllabi for accreditation purposes was mandatory, that this practice would be very doable.
- Jan reported that the faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences reacted with mixed feelings, but definitely that no one was prepared to post current syllabi.
- Aviva reported that faculty from the School of Education and Human Services were fine with posting previous syllabi through the Library.

Consensus from the Committee was that because the proposal was brought to AAAC via Student Government, Chair Lair would share the thoughts of the committee with our AAAC Student Representative, Tamim Reza, indicating that if they wanted to pursue the proposal recommended by AAAC, that they would have to next submit it to Faculty Council for their approval. Dan will email Tamim.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.