UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

AAAC

Academic Affairs Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 21, 2016
1:30 p.m. – Lapeer Room

~ Minutes ~

Members Present:  Darryl Baird, Blair Davis, Chris Douglas, Jan Furman (Chair), Greg Laurence, Jie Song, and Rie Suzuki

Members Absent:  Aviva Dorfman and Doug Knerr

Approval of Minutes – January 7, 2016  ►  The Minutes of January 7, 2016 were approved as written.

Proposal from Faculty Council – Search Committees  ►  Much discussion took place regarding the proposal from Faculty Council in terms of faculty participation on future search committees. Once the proposal is approved, the intent is to submit it to the Provost and Chancellor. (See proposal below.)

“A potential norm (for faculty involvement on search committees) would be majority faculty composition, with all academic units represented where possible, on search committees for positions within academic affairs whenever the position in question has wide reach across campus. Then, faculty representation on all other searches, where positions with greater academic involvement should have ‘more’ faculty involvement.”

Based on their conversation, the Committee members were concerned regarding how specific the proposal should be; therefore, they decided to ask Faculty Council the following questions:

- Do we just mean only within Academic Affairs?
- What is the threshold of when to apply the guidelines?
- Was the intent of the proposal to only cover positions which would impact Academic Affairs?
- Are we talking about administrative searches only and what constitutes “administrative.”

Jan indicated that once these questions are answered, we will be able to review/discuss the proposal easier and make a determination.
Report from Faculty Council ► Greg indicated that he had nothing to report but reminded members to attend the Governing Faculty Meeting next week.

Matters Arising ► Darryl said that, as a matter of old business, he is not clear whether the item of Title IX case reviews for faculty had been adequately addressed. He reminded the Committee that when Tom Wrobel was a member, Tom brought up the discrepancy of how Title IX cases were handled when a student was involved versus when a faculty member was involved. At that time there were one or two Title IX workshops regarding the process of when students were involved and what steps to take. The allegation then was that when Title IX cases occur involving faculty, the same care and process is not followed as is done when students are involved and that there have been cases that were hurried through and faculty ended up losing their jobs apparently without appropriate due process. Darryl was questioning whether a process had been determined for faculty now and/or is it similar to the way student cases are handled. Discussion ensued. At the time when this campus conversation took place, Lois Alexander was the Chair of Faculty Council and was involved in the coordination of the workshops. A suggestion was made that Darryl talk to Tom as a refresher and Chris would talk to Lois to see what she knows in this regard. After conversations, the Committee will decide on the scope of the issue and see if there is any incongruence.

Discussion also took place regarding space and what is happening in that regard. The Committee is interested in finding out the process that is being utilized in determining how space in the Merit Building will be assigned/allocated. AAAC would like the Provost to provide them an update at the next meeting regarding space considerations.

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.