UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

AAAC
Academic Affairs Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 18, 2016
1:30 p.m. – Grad Programs Conference Room

~ Minutes ~

Members Present: Darryl Baird, Blair Davis, Aviva Dorfman, Jan Furman (Chair), Doug Knerr, Greg Laurence, Jie Song, and Rie Suzuki

Members Absent: Chris Douglas

Approval of Minutes – January 21, 2016 ► The Minutes of January 21, 2016 were approved as written.

Master of Science in Engineering (MSE) in Mechanical Engineering ► Jan indicated that as we review each of the new program proposals on the agenda, there are two questions that we need to answer: Does the program fit within the University of Michigan-Flint mission? and Where does this program rank within Academic Affairs priorities?

Darryl asked if we should also consider how the program aligns with HLC Best Practice and Doug indicated absolutely. Much discussion took place specifically in regard to the added faculty in years two, three, and four as well as the concern for garnering enough enrollment in light of the competition from Dearborn, Ann Arbor, and Kettering. Some wondered whether there was any monitoring of new programs to ensure that the program growth that was projected in the proposal actually occurred. Doug indicated that after thorough conversation with the Dean and department that he is committed to the new program and is confident that it will thrive. He also indicated that the maintenance and reaffirmation of accreditation depends on this kind of program growth.

Action: The Committee felt that in addition to being coherent, the program’s numbers and narrative align and, therefore, gave it their unanimous approval.

Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program within a Department of Occupational Therapy ► The Committee was initially concerned regarding the space issues as a result of an additional department and program in the White Building. Doug reassured them that this was discussed thoroughly and there should not be a problem once the Merit Building move takes place. Another concern was that we don’t currently have a Master’s program to support the doctoral program. Doug explained that that is where the market is going, that of entry programs in this area being doctoral programs rather than master’s programs.
Because Dean Fry was at a conference, she joined the meeting via conference phone. Donna provided a very thorough overview of the program from its inception and the steps that took place in regard to needs assessment. Donna explained that the OT Program will complement the PT Program nicely in that OT and PT are two of three components for rehabilitation. Many students who are interested in PT are also interested in OT. With the competition that is so extremely high for PT, i.e. 500 applicants per year with 60 slots available, many of those students will want to move to OT. Donna indicated that in conducting needs assessment for this potential program, they hired a consultant who is a long-standing faculty in OT and served on the Board of Michigan Occupational Therapy for over 20 years. If approved, this will be the first OT doctoral program in the State of Michigan. They do not anticipate any enrollment problems, but have reviewed numbers versus budget in a very conservative manner. They have also taken into consideration that eventually Master’s programs at other universities will soon add a doctorate to their programs as well, which will be additional competition. Accreditation and HLC approval were discussed.

**Action:** Following discussion the feeling of the Committee was that the proposal was forward thinking and carefully considered and therefore approved the new program.

**Proposed Final Exam Schedule Change ►**

**Action:** With the proposed final exam schedule change being so slight, AAAC readily approved it; however, they appreciated that it was brought forth for their consideration.

**Title IX Update ►** Chris was helpful in providing an update of the Title IX inquiry in regard to the questions that arose regarding the process. Jan added that Faculty Senate is still working to make sure that the process is clear and equitable. Specifically, once a finding is made, there is no appeal process available, so Faculty Senate is working on that. Additional discussion ensued.

**Matters Arising ►** Greg indicated that Faculty Council sent a response to AAAC noted in the January 21 Minutes regarding a clarification of faculty involvement on search committees. Jan asked that members be prepared to discuss this further in “what constitutes a majority” and on what types of searches. The Office of the Provost will provide a complete set of organizational charts for the next meeting as well.

The Committee asked that the Grad Program Conference Room be the dedicated meeting room for future AAAC Meetings.

Aviva reiterated the importance of open communication between faculty and executive officers, especially in the lead-up to major administrative changes, reorganization, and her hiring.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.