

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

AAAC  
*Academic Affairs Advisory Committee*

Thursday, May 19, 2016  
1:30 p.m. – Grad Programs Conference Room

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~ *Minutes* ~

**Members Present:** Aviva Dorfman, Doug Knerr, Dan Lair, Greg Laurence, Marilyn McFarland, Jie Song

**Members Absent:** Jan Furman

Doug welcomed new members to the committee and each shared a little information about themselves to get to know one another.

**Approval of Minutes – April 28, 2016** ► The Minutes of April 28, 2016 were approved as written.

**Selection of Chair for 2016-17** ► Greg Laurence was selected as the AAAC Chair for 2016-17. (He will be on sabbatical for Winter, so someone will be selected as Interim Chair for the remainder of the year.) AAAC Meetings will continue to be held on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 1:00 p.m. beginning in September. The selection of a Representative to Faculty Council was tabled until the meeting dates/times are known.

**Provost Report – University** ► Doug reported that the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan will be published and placed on the university web site in the near future which will include all of the recommendations. The detailed reports of the sub-committees will not be published but if anyone is interested, they can be accessed.

Doug indicated that the HLC Conference was held in April and a number of individuals attended from UM-Flint including members of the Persistence and Completion Committee. He explained that he would like all members of AAAC to attend next year's conference which will be held from March 31 through April 4, at the Hyatt in Chicago. As we get closer to the event, information/reminders will be sent out. He said that HLC expects universities to attend especially as they are nearing reaccreditation.

**Provost Report – University** ► Doug announced that he has recommended to the Chancellor to move forward with the approval of the School of Nursing. He explained that after his arrival to campus he has done a lot of work both internally and externally to make sure that that was the right decision and he feels that it is, especially with the impending legislation about community colleges and he said that developing a School of Nursing speaks volumes about the totality of our education including liberal arts.

**Provost Report – Curriculum** ► Doug referenced the email announcement that went out today regarding the formation of ad hoc committees and proposals for the purpose of initiating General Education and FYE program reviews. Doug said that this is a big undertaking for Cathy Miller and the eventual ad hoc committees. Dan indicated that he has joined the General Education Ad Hoc Committee. Doug said that he would like AAAC to take the lead in sponsoring a series of summits that could complement the efforts of the ad hoc committees. He asked AAAC members to be thinking about what kinds of summits that could be established.

**Provost Report – Personnel** ► Doug announced that around six months ago, Chris Waters talked about next steps in her career and her desire to be more involved in art education at the university and also at the community level. With the Department of Communication and Visual Arts becoming two separate departments, she is going to run as chair of the Department of Art and Art History. He said with her administrative experience and being a founding member of that department, could strengthen the department in moving forward. She also has strong ties to the Flint Institute of Art and FIA is very interested in deepening their relationship on a larger level. He indicated that if Chris becomes chair, the direct reports of the Honors Program, Institutional Analysis, and the Thompson Center for Teaching and Learning will revert to him. Doug said that if the change is made, he would still seek Chris' expertise regarding special projects such as accreditation.

Doug indicated that he is delighted that Dan's department (Communication and Visual Arts) is piloting an advising plan. He feels that it is right on target and asked Dan to provide an overview of the pilot. Dan explained that the department hired one of their lecturers to be released from some of her classes and spend the time as department advisor. What is great is that she knows the department and curriculum and is still teaching, so she knows the students very well. Each student who declares a major goes to her and she takes care of all of the prescriptive advising. Once they are advised, the students are assigned a faculty mentor and then the faculty can concentrate on other types of advising issues and can have meaningful conversations with their students. Dan said that they are still trying to formalize their pattern of goals but basically the program is going very well.

Doug indicated that after he provided AAAC with an announcement regarding Gilia Smith, Special Advisor to the Provost, he wanted to provide them with a copy of her resume so that they could see her breadth of experience. He said that in reality she works for the Council of Deans and will be assisting them on various projects, in fact, she is working with Susan initially. Operationally, she will be working on assessment, program reviews, and accreditation, but has other expertise that we could also use as well.

Doug announced that Dr. Kenneth Sylvester has been selected and accepted the position of Director of the Office of Research. He reassured the committee, and indicated that an announcement will be coming out, that UROP Funding and Summer Research Funding will continue. He believes that Dr. Sylvester was a good selection and that he will shape the Office of Research into a more robust office.

Doug said that he circulated a draft of the Strategic Plan for Academic Affairs and his intention is to have faculty governance look at it and make formal recommendations but this is only a starting point. He explained that he wants AAAC to be referential and wants to get good feedback.

Discussion took place regarding the desire to have a discussion in terms of how the university can support faculty systemically in small ways that would make a difference.

**Faculty Council Report** ► Greg reported that the university-wide Governing Faculty Meeting was held yesterday. He said that at the last Faculty Council Meeting, the ad hoc committee to look into the Chancellor's review was formulated and to date they have had two meetings.

**Matters Arising** ► Jie said that from the last meeting regarding the topic of whether a website should be developed to post syllabi, he polled his faculty and they were generally not in favor of it for the following reasons: students may only use the website to "shop," because of the intellectual property issue, and it would be harder to make changes to their syllabi once it was posted.

Other conversation led to the idea of AAAC inviting Bob Houbeck to come to a future AAAC Meeting to discuss textbooks.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.