Members Present: David Gordon, Scott Johnson, Vahid Lotfi, Albert Price, Chris Waters and Gerard Voland

Guests: Mona Munroe-Younis, Program Manage, University Outreach
        Jacob Blumner, Director, University Outreach

Gerard called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Impact Circle for Flint Master Plan Implementation ▶ Mona disseminated handouts regarding the Flint Master Plan and the Impact Circle implementation. She indicated that one of the purposes of the proposed Impact Circle is the intentional gathering of faculty and staff to galvanize research, academic service-learning, and other university connections related to the new Flint Master Plan. She indicated that one of the handouts is a very compressed summary of the goals and objectives of the plan; however the plan itself is about 300 pages, including over 100 objectives.

She explained that the Plan covers so many different disciplines and possibilities for class and/or research projects. She indicated that right now university members are engaged in piece-meal projects throughout the City; however, as Carnegie emphasizes, we should try to shift to a coordinated formative effort and that is another purpose of the Impact Circle.

Jacob reiterated that this is a great opportunity for the University to reach out to the community. He said that this is the first Master Plan for the City in over 50 years. We are in the early stages of tracking our service-learning and community engagement; however, the Impact Circle related to the Flint Master Plan will be a great opportunity for us to be involved in the community.

Mona explained that she envisions the Impact Circle meeting once or twice a month involving conversations to make things happen. One of the other purposes is to position the University as an academic partner of choice within the region. Mona explained that our current University Strategic Plan, Priority Number 4 (Expand Participation in Civic Engagement, Experiential Learning and Service Learning), calls for UM-Flint to “establish priority areas for community engagement: public health, land use, economic development, and education.” The Impact Circle is a venue to do so and these priority areas roughly align with the academic units and the Master Plan’s current priority areas. She said that there are seven Implementation Task Groups as part of the Master Plan and it is hoped that at least one member of the University can serve on each of the task groups. Much discussion took place...
including the role of the University and what types of resources that the University could contribute and how that would have possible financial impact. Vahid indicated that part of our discussion should include logistical ideas such as space. For instance, how expanding our residency for students or leasing space could be of mutual benefit; discussing how we can align our university plans with that of the Flint Master Plan.

Jacob and Mona indicated that they are seeking to generate broad support to try to involve as many members of the university to participate in the Impact Circle and asked deans to urge their faculty and staff to participate. Email invitations will be going out to the university soon. Jacob added that if any of the deans joined the Impact Circle it would make a huge statement to their faculty and staff members.

Mona concluded that additional information, including the full Master Plan and Implementation Task Group Application, can be found at: http://www.imagineflint.com/. Task Groups will begin meeting in April or May and they are asking for a one-year commitment for those that participate. There is currently a web page through University Outreach devoted to the Impact Circle (http://www.umflint.edu/outreach/impact-circles); however, we hope to expand its content and work with University Relations to give the Impact Circle its own website.

Minutes of February 27, 2014 ► The Minutes of February 27 were approved as amended.

Budget Planning ► Gerard indicated that he and Greg Tewksbury will be meeting with each of the deans in the near future. He explained that no carry forward funding will be pulled back, but that Greg is seeking a formal understanding of what plans have been made within each unit with any unused funding. He said that these meetings will also be helpful so that Greg can learn more about each unit and any budget issues that they may have.

Matters Arising ► Gerard indicated that with the latest announcement from Ora Pescovitz, Martha Pollack, Tim Slottow, and Laurita Thomas regarding changes to the retirement savings plan by limiting retirement savings contributions to only base pay, he expects that the greatest impact will be on chairs and possibly directors. Overloads will also be impacted. Gerard said that he will invite Beth to attend the next meeting for additional discussion.

Vahid announced that after a thorough analysis of the DEEP Program in terms of student performance, he is delighted to announce that in comparison of GPA’s, with the same professors, syllabi, and textbooks, students in the DEEP Program are performing at high levels. He said that he would be providing a complete copy of the report in the near future. In addition, projections indicate that there will be at least 300 students in the program next fall. Discussion ensued.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.