UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

Council of Deans Meeting

Thursday, April 24, 2014
3:00 p.m. – Shiawassee Room

~ Minutes ~


Guests: Lee Cruppenink, Assistant Admissions Director for Transfer Recruitment
Jeff Pratt, Coordinator of K-12 Partnerships

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

Grand Blanc Schools Dual Enrollment Request ► Vahid shared information about a request by Grand Blanc Schools to create an expanded DEEP Program in the form of a three-year early college program (grades 11, 12, and 13). He provided an overview by indicating that several months ago, he and Jeff Pratt were invited to Grand Blanc High School to provide a presentation regarding the programs that UM-Flint could offer their school district. Previous to this Grand Blanc was considering a couple of other partnerships with other universities until they heard UM-Flint’s presentation. From follow-up meetings, the Grand Blanc Early College proposal was crafted.

Basically, the request would involve a three-year program with the junior and senior years held in Grand Blanc and the 13th year at UM-Flint campus totaling approximately 44 credit hours, with the focus on liberal arts. Jeff explained that the program would involve each cohort having not less than 40, but not more than 50 students. Four courses will be delivered each of the first two years and then students can select what courses they would like for the 13th year (or third year) here on campus. They would like to provide all units the opportunity to participate; the curriculum will be developed based on those interested, with back-up courses planned.

Vahid indicated that the early college would be different than the Genesee Early College in that the proposed program is three-year versus five-year, and Grand Blanc students would remain at the home high school for the first two years versus GEC students being on campus through the entire program. Also, Grand Blanc has AP courses. Vahid and Jeff indicated that they are seeking the deans’ and pertinent faculty support because they must contact Grand Blanc in the near future regarding our commitment. Much discussion took place.

Jeff announced that he is also working with Flint Schools in an attempt to develop some kind of partnership with them as well and they have had five meetings with another one scheduled in the near future. The support by the deans for the proposed Grand Blanc Early College was unanimous.
Michigan Transfer Agreement Update  ▶  Gerard indicated that he and Vahid recently met with Faculty Council to review the procedures for which the mandated Michigan Transfer Agreement was introduced to faculty nearly two and a half years ago. He indicated that the meeting was very productive garnering their commitment to help implement and support the MTA on campus. Lee provided an MTA update for deans indicating that he is beginning to get lists from community colleges regarding what courses they are recommending to be on the list. Lee said that MTA transfers are not a problem at all other than a couple areas such as higher level mathematics and foreign languages; however, efforts are being made to work through those. Essentially 30 credits are needed to satisfying the general education requirements and all fifteen publics have committed. Much discussion ensued. Lee indicated that after the first year, this will give us an opportunity to have conversations with community colleges where needed. In the meantime, Lee offered to assist in any way possible to make the implementation smooth.

Approval of March 13, 2014 Minutes  ▶  The Minutes of March 13, 2014 were approved as amended.

Transforming Lecturer Positions to Tenure Track  ▶  Gerard explained that the Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty (CESF) strongly recommends the increase in the number of tenure track faculty. Gerard indicated that he is very supportive of their recommendation and would like to find ways to increase the numbers. One of the ways is to encourage lecturers to apply for tenure track positions; however, there are other mechanisms such as through attrition, etc. that can be implemented. Bob indicated that he has moved lecturers to tenure track but the way to do it is through tenure track searches. Others mentioned that there are many fine lecturers; however, they do not want to be tenure track because they are not interested in the research aspect. The deans agreed that not all departments would have the ability to make changes. Gerard indicated that he would like each of the deans to work with their faculty to come up with a five-year plan at the local level to increase tenure track faculty. He said that the departments are the best ones to know what mix they would like to accomplish and what is doable.

IRB Procedures  ▶  Gerard explained that there are growing concerns regarding the need to increase communication with faculty regarding the need to follow IRB procedures. Vahid suggested that units may want to invite the Chair of IRB Marianne McGrath to one of their faculty meetings early in the academic year to provide a presentation. Deans discussed how even the simplest survey and/or test requires IRB approval for a number of reasons. Vahid indicated that IRB procedures have been improved greatly and in most cases can provide approval within 24 hours. Deans suggested that maybe a quick-sheet with “frequently asked questions” could also be developed. Gerard stressed that increasing awareness and approval is crucial.

Faculty Grievance Protocols  ▶  Gerard reminded deans to be sure to be familiar with the faculty grievance protocol that exists within each of their units. Should an incident occur, deans will want to be able to identify the process to follow. All of the deans seemed very confident that they were familiar with their procedures.

The remainder of the agenda items were tabled for the next Council of Deans Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 8.

Maters Arising  ▶  Vahid announced that Utica Community Schools are holding a Foundation for Educational Excellence “Arts and Idols” Gala and they have provided the University with two free tables of ten for the event. Vahid would like us to participate, as they are one of our DEEP partners, and asked the deans to share the information with pertinent individuals in their units and RSVP to Mary Deibis.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.