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

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

Approval of Minutes from August 22, 2013 ► The Minutes of August 22, 2013 were approved as written.

Chris disseminated a Credit Hour Comparison spreadsheet for Fall 2013 as of today. She indicated that we have a Concurrent Enrollment Agreement with Mott which means that their students can concurrently enroll at both Mott and UM-Flint as long as students take at least one course at UM-Flint. The purpose of the Agreement is that it is advantage for the students economically in that they are advised by UM-Flint advisors making sure that they take transferrable and relevant coursework. Under this Agreement UM-Flint also handles the Financial Aid and distributes funding. The complexity comes in counting the credit hours for reporting purposes. Because UM-Flint distributes the Financial Aid, the clearing house counts them as full-time with UM-Flint even though they are part-time between Mott and UM-Flint; therefore, there is a disconnect regarding what we need to report for such federal reports as Heidi. We will be in the process of trying to have ITS write a script to change this but this means that until then the numbers are somewhat skewed. She wanted to alert Deans that when 10th Day numbers come out, the credit hour report may show an additional 300 hours, but that is not accurate and will be due to the Concurrent Enrollment Agreement. She indicated that there is a line on the spreadsheet at the top under “No College Designated” – MCC – that will be populated, so it can easily be spotted. Discussion took place.

Higher Learning Commission Continued Accreditation ► Chris disseminated a notification of three faculty forums for the purpose of discussing reaffirmation of accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission coming up in 2019-20. She indicated that we have elected to follow the Open Pathway track for reaccreditation, however, that means that we are required to identify and engage in one major quality initiative (improvement effort). In addition, we must populate the newly established electronic database for the Assurance Section (which replaces the self-study book), however, we can put off doing that for a couple of years. She explained that at the forums faculty input and suggestions will be gathered regarding what kind of project should be undertaken. Once input is gathered, Governing Faculty will be asked to vote on the Quality Initiative in October. Chris indicated that the requirement from HLC is that the Quality Initiative effort has to be lead (designed) and accepted by faculty.

HLC provides the opportunity to satisfy the Quality Initiative in three ways:

- Design our own initiative; example, experience volunteerism in the Social Justice Center.
- Associate ourselves with an initiative that is already approved by HLC; example, the John Gardner Institute.
- Be involved in the Academy by HLC on Persistence and Completion.
Academy on Persistence and Completion ► Chris indicated that because of the timeline, she and Vahid wrote an application (see handout) to apply for the Academy for Student Persistence and Completion which was reviewed/approved by Faculty Council and submitted prior to September 1. Vahid indicated that it ties in with the Student Success Center but we won’t know if we have been accepted until next month. He explained that a limited number of institutions will be accepted and if we are, we will not have to submit another application. He said that it is really important that everyone understands that we should not stop initiatives that we are already doing. This does not replace them; it is an additional project. Gerard agreed and indicated that persistence is a number one priority in order for us to be successful and he believes that faculty will understand that that is a high priority.

Chris indicated that previous discussions with faculty have evolved in four areas for a possible Quality Initiative: Experiential Learning; Engaged Learning Experiences; First Year Student Success: Persistence and Retention; and Persistence and Completion. Vahid indicated that there are two things that are important in developing a successful Quality Initiative: a critical mass of faculty must get excited and take ownership of the initiative; and there needs to be some existing structure to support the Quality Initiative rather than starting from scratch. He explained that HLC requires that a faculty team to lead the effort must be developed rather than having it done by administration. He also indicated that if Persistence and Completion is selected, the Student Success Center could be the structure that could provide the support of that initiative. If civic engagement was selected, then it would make sense for University Outreach to be the infrastructure. Vahid said that the plan in presenting to faculty is to talk about the pros and cons. A suggestion was made to anticipate questions and have some data available. He also explained that the advantage of going with the Academy is that we don’t have to “reinvent the wheel”. Gerard indicated that from conversation during the accreditation process enrollment and retention was discussed many times; the option for growing enrollment is increasing retention and for us this makes sense.

Vahid brought up the fact that with going with the Academy, we design our own plan but HLC provides the platform. Not everyone is eligible to elect to follow the Open Pathway track; we are because of the clean accreditation that we received. Chris indicated that we need to do the Academy anyway regardless if Persistence and Completion is selected or not because of the Student Success Center. Gerard said that this is a wonderful opportunity for us to focus on a university initiative and advance.

Much discussion took place with deans overwhelmingly supporting Persistence and Completion; however, they indicated that faculty have the final decision. Chris closed by saying that we are required to report back to HLC at the end of the Fall Semester with our decision.

K-12 Partnership Expansion ► Vahid reported that dual enrollment is growing by 65% in programs such as GEC, Hartland, Lapeer, etc. He explained that we have also been asked to expand our programs at Utica and that we are studying the request.

Vahid indicated that our new Director of K-12 Partnerships, Jeff Pratt, recently visited Howell (Livingston), one of four participating school districts in the DEEP Program. There is also strong interest to expand our programs at Livingston County.

For the past two years, we have sent five of our best students to tutor at Carmen Ainsworth. With so many opportunities, we are trying to get a sense regarding how much support that we can provide and/or if there is enough interest. In the meantime, Bob Hahn, Jeff Pratt, and Vahid will be conducting a feasibility study and looking at the cost requirements of each program. This may give us a sense of priority and what are our capacities. Discussion took place regarding the different kinds of programs that we provide and their costs/benefits. Vahid said sometimes the benefits are not immediately apparent.
Gerard indicated that we want to make sure that all initiatives that we undertake need to be of high quality. He said that Utica is a golden opportunity to funnel a large number of students that may come from Macomb County which we haven’t been able to recruit very easily in the past. Vahid added that Utica is the second largest school district in Michigan with 2,000 seniors this year. Vahid indicated that once the feasibility report is complete that he would share it with the Deans.

**Promotion and Tenure Process** Gerard said that he wanted to make sure that all the Deans were on the same page regarding promotion and tenure, and especially concerning external review letters. He said that it is absolutely mandatory that everyone who votes on cases sees the external review letters, but wanted to make sure that there are processes in place for reviewing dossiers and external review letters which ensure total confidentiality. Both hard copy and electronic processes were discussed. He also urged that all processes be equitable and defensible.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.