UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

Council of Deans Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 2013
3:00 p.m. – Graduate Programs Conference Room

~ Minutes ~


Guests: Diana Curran, Director, Flint-Human Resources
David Lossing, Director, Government Relations

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

Faculty Grievance Procedure  ► Diana disseminated the Model Faculty Grievance Procedure for Schools, Colleges, and Academic Units that Ann Arbor adopted in September of 2010. She reminded the Council that in December of 2012 Ann Arbor had requested that all campuses review their grievance procedures and revise them if necessary in an effort to align them with those of Ann Arbor. She reiterated the importance that each school and college establishes a grievance procedure. Diana advised that once the procedures have been developed, Provost Voland would consult with Academic Human Resources and Legal Office in Ann Arbor to ensure they do not pose any conflicts.

Higher Education Funding Metrics  ► David Lossing disseminated the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Higher Education Appropriations Report. He explained that the enacted Higher Education budget includes a $21.9 million (1.8%) increase for university operations and that the $21.9 million is allocated through the existing formula components:

22.2% ($4.0 million) based on critical skills area undergraduate degree completions
11.1% ($2.4 million) based on research and development expenditures
66.7% based on national comparisons to Carnegie peers in three areas

The University of Michigan-Flint received a 2.06% increase from 2012-13.

Approval of Minutes from September 12, 2013 and September 26, 2013  ► After some discussion it was agreed that the Council needs more time to review the minutes and would like to receive them earlier. The approval of minutes was tabled until the next meeting.
Students Registering for Concurrent Classes ► Scott Johnson voiced his concerns regarding concurrent classes. He spoke with Karen Arnould regarding students registering for two internet courses that meet at the same time and the fact that the system allows it to happen. By the time the School identifies the error it’s past the deadline to drop classes and the students lose their money. Discussion was held as to why this happens.

LEAP State Update ► Chris disseminated the Michigan LEAP Initiative and updated the Council that discussion is continuing with AAC&U (Association of American Colleges and Universities) for Michigan to become a LEAP (Liberal Education for Americas Promise) state. Out of the 15 public universities in Michigan 13 of them are submitting a proposal to AAC&U for Michigan to become the 11th LEAP state. This platform will be used as a form of communication and a way to get things done, i.e. Michigan Transfer Agreement. Please review the draft and inform her of any “red flags”.

Tenure Track Faculty Appointments and Reviews ► Gerard discussed how there may be an issue with timing of reviews and appointments. He suggested a few different contract lengths to be offered to faculty. There was discussion regarding the feasibility of three two-year contracts or a four-year/two-year option. Gerard felt that it would be much healthier for both the University and the faculty member to sever ties in five years rather than seven years when a faculty member does not have a positive four-year review and a clear indication of challenges in meeting the tenure requirements. Ann Arbor uses the two three-year contract system that we use now. If changes were to be made to the terms of contracts, they would be implemented with future hires and not current faculty. Much discussion ensued.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.