UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

Council of Deans Meeting

Thursday, October 24, 2013
3:00 p.m. – Graduate Programs Conference Room

~ Minutes ~

Members Present: Gerard Voland, Robert Barnett, David Gordon (via conference phone), Scott Johnson, Vahid Lotfi, and Albert Price

Guests: Michael Lane, Director/Department of Environment, Health, and Safety

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

Revised Business Continuity Plan Template ► Mike disseminated a draft of the revised Business Continuity Plan and indicated that his office is working with executive offices focusing on BC planning, i.e., what to do in the event of a disruption due to a major disaster, prolonged campus closing, pandemic event, etc. The purpose of the plans is for preparedness in eliminating and/or reducing risks. Mike reviewed the revised templates with deans noting that Sections 1-3 are the most critical. He indicated that he has asked various individuals across campus to partially complete the template by identifying one or two critical operations and then providing his office with feedback regarding how the form flows, were good questions asked, etc. Mike noted that an improvement made is that all contact information can be given once, in Section 9, rather than throughout the document. Discussion took place regarding some things that we should be looking at, in the case of an emergency, such as preparing faculty to have the capability of offering their classes online in a case of an emergency, changing the semester timeline with possible accelerated coursework, etc.

Vahid suggested that in the future we might want to consider contacting other constituents such as Mott, Kettering, etc. in establishing a partnership should a disaster occur to one or the other in terms of shared space, i.e. labs and/or classrooms, or other resources. He indicated that currently IT is working on an agreement with Dearborn for disaster recovery between the two campuses.

Mike asked the deans if they would be willing to work through one or two critical operations for their offices and provide him feedback regarding the form by November 7. He indicated that in terms of time, the revised form is being piloted now as well as gathering feedback; that feedback will be reviewed and implemented in December, with a rollout in January, 2014.

Approval of Minutes ►

• September 12 – Approve as amended.
• September 26 – Approved as written.
• October 10 – Approve as amended.
**Change in Graduate Programs Grading Policy**

Vahid disseminated a proposal to change the grading scale for graduate programs from a nine-point system to the traditional four-point system. Vahid explained the history of how we inherited the nine-point system due to our having to follow Ann Arbor’s Rackham School of Graduate Studies some time ago because we have three Rackham programs on our campus now. He explained that beginning Fall 2013, Ann Arbor decided to eliminate the nine-point system and use a 4.0/4.3 grading scale. Dearborn has followed but has had some computer problems. Our faculty, for years, have wanted to go back to the four-point system. After reviewing both systems, the graduate program directors and Graduate Programs Committee unanimously approved the adoption of a new system for calculating GPAs for all graduates, which is the four-point system.

Vahid explained that there is one technicality in converting to the four-point system. He said that Ann Arbor uses 4.3 honor points to give A+’es; however, we do not practice this at the undergraduate level. We have checked with several Banner consultants and they advise that we should not try to make this change in Banner because it would be extremely costly and the reprogramming would have to be done every time that Banner is upgraded. Vahid explained that A+’es could be issued, but they would receive 4.0 honor points. Much discussion ensued.

Vahid indicated that they would like to secure the support of each academic unit to move forward with the change. He will forward formal language for the proposed change to the deans within the next few days and asked them to review the proposal with their respective faculty group(s) and respond no later than the end of November. Because the change will require months of programming, they wish to begin working on Banner with an anticipated implementation for Fall 2014.

**M-Cubed**

This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.