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February 2014 Minutes

USM Council of Chairs

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Council of Chairs

February 25, 2014

3:00-5:00 p.m.

CoST Dean's Conference Room (TEC 102)

Agenda

1. Call to Order –Thelma Roberson, chair (meeting called to order at 3:05)
2. Approval of the agenda (moved and approved at 3:06)
3. Guest Speaker – Dr. Wiesenburg, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
 - a. CoC addressed by Dr. Wiesenburg. Spoke to the Council regarding a faculty member refusing to teach a class. Was seeking support of the notion that chairs have the authority and responsibility to assign courses for teaching by faculty. More specifically, he was asking for support of Section 4.4 of the Faculty Handbook regarding the authority of the Chair to make curriculum decisions in a department. He also commented on the issue of chair compensation. He also commented on issues of salary compression, summer school/summer school compensation, and faculty salaries. He also spoke to mini-session money treated as under a RCM model. The initiatives will be made public shortly and quietly. There will be a public announcement by April 15th. He also spoke to the issue of increasing costs to operate the university. Also addressed the issue of departments' inability to meet the 20% of startup funds portion of packages.

On a separate issue, it was discussed regarding support for Section 4.4 of the Faculty Handbook. Discussion ensued. Eric will pen a statement for consideration by the members of the CoC with respect to the responsibility and authority of the Chairs to make decisions; that statement will be circulated to the membership for editing and an electronic vote.

4. Approval of the minutes – Joe Olmi, secretary (minutes moved and approved)
5. Chair's Report – Thelma J. Roberson
 - a. ALC (no report)
 - b. CoC Luncheon – Affirmation of CoC support in implementing new organizational structure (Thelma reported on the success of the luncheon.)
 - c. Space Planning Committee – David Duhon (Thelma reported that we now have representation on that Committee.)
 - d. HR Committee (Thelma is seeking clarification from HR on whether there is such a committee.)
6. Chair-elect's Report – Tisha Zelner (no report)
7. New Business
 - a. Response to changes in Organizational structure for Gulf Coast (no comment; many questions were posed for clarification by Dr. Vinzant).
 - b. Changes to USM Property Manual as pertaining to chair's responsibility.
 - c. Guest speakers for March and April
 - 1) Doug Vinzant (questions were formulated with regard to the budgeting process with the new organizational structure for the Coast.)
 - 2) Bill McGillis, Director of Athletics

8. Old Business
 - a. Chair Compensation Proposal updates– Tom O’Brien (draft proposal was disseminated to those in attendance; Tom O’Brien will revise and re-distribute to membership.)
9. Assessment & Accreditation – Bill Powell
10. Committee Reports:
 - b. Bylaws & Constitution Committee – Tim Rehner, chair (Tisha reported that some changes/modifications will be offered at the next meeting.)
 - c. Chair Development Committee – Tom O’Brien, chair (no report)
 - d. Faculty Handbook Committee CoC Representative – Tisha Zelner (Tisha reported that as it currently exists, IHL Board Policy is confusing with regard to when you must notify of non-renewal of contract and whether instructors get the one year of employment after being notified of no-renewal of contract as is typically done with tenure-track faculty. The CoC recommends not including instructors in this situation and should not have this one year of employment. Specifically, nursing was used as an example where the policy may not apply.)
 - e. Ad Hoc HR Committee – Sabine Heinhorst (no report)
 - f. University Assessment Committee – Chuck Tardy (reported that 10-15% of the University fail to do a departmental report.)
 - g. Space Planning – David Duhon (no report)
 - h. Strategic Planning – Tisha Zelner (Tisha will be serving as representative of the CoC on that University Committee.)
11. Announcements (no announcements)
12. Next Meeting: March 25, 2014, 3-5 p.m., CoST Dean’s Conference Room (TEC 102)
13. Adjourn (adjourned at 5:10)