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September 2016 Minutes

USM Council of Chairs

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Recommended Citation

Council of Chairs
September 9, 2016
Noon-2 p.m.
LAB 209 (Dean's conference room)

PROPOSED AGENDA

1.0   Call to order – Ann Marie Kinnell, Chair

2.0   Approval of Agenda

3.0   Guest Speaker: None this meeting

4.0   Approval of Minutes from 2015-2016 meetings – Stacey Reischman Fletcher, Secretary

5.0   Executive Committee Reports

        5.1 Academic Leadership Council (see New Business 9.2)

        5.2 Executive Committee meeting with Provost

Academic Productivity review and 3 year graduation rates from IHL are changing. Discussion was had about the criteria for the data, specifically if it applied to degree type and if some degree types are "aggregated" or not. Dr. Powell was able to provide some clarification about MA/MS, BA/BS. According to IHL policies, degree programs at the same level can be aggregated. The **internal** review of emphasis areas at USM should not be confused with the IHL review of degrees awarded (which is not reduced to emphasis areas).

The Council discussed the internal guideline for minimum class enrollments. Many "exceptions" were shared, based on class level, discipline, program size, etc.. It seems that decisions to cancel courses not meeting minimum enrollments are handled differently in different colleges.

A larger understanding of how our internal scrutiny of minimum class sizes, the IHL concern for number of degrees awarded, and the internal review of emphasis areas (that are weak in terms of enrollment and degree production) work together is needed. Are the three working together? And to what end? Dr. Powell said he would work with Provost Moser for some clarification. Any policy that emerges from this should have room for flexibility.

Dr. Rehner shared with the CoC the concerns we have about our ability to manage our unit with certain tools, including adjuncts and load. And rigid university policy lessen the ability of the chair to effectively manage our units. We don't have many tools at our disposal. Moser's reply was that this is where the Academic Master Plan can help (in the long run). Moser did say that getting to this point would affect some productive units. The CoCs feel strongly that a blanket policy has much potential to damage productive units.

Workload policy assessment and reassigned time policies and teaching efficiencies: brief discussion of recent requests for these items revealed that different colleges get such requests differently (if at all).

Policies coming out of the graduate school were discussed. From the Chair perspective, there are several policies and they roll out frequently. Some units expressed difficulty in responding to them all, particularly when it comes to timing.

6.0   Committee Reports, internal
        5.1 Chair Development Committee – Wayne Kelly, past-Chair (closing out?)

How the CoC will be involved in New Chair Training needs to be determined. Allison Gillespie in the Provost's Office is our contact for this. Wayne Kelly will contact Allison about moving forward with this. Basically the CoC will be partnered with the training out of the Provost's Office. Some ideas include multiple multiplier training, institutional issues versus general leadership training, promoting the Academic Impressions access we have to webinars.

7.0   Committee Reports, external / Liaisons to university committees
        7.1 Committee on the Evaluation of Teaching – No report

        No report.

        7.2 Faculty Handbook Committee – Tisha Zelner

No report. Dr. Kimberley Davis is the new chair.

7.3 University Assessment Committee – Susan Hart

A reminder that GEC 06 is moving from GEC assessment to program level assessment (that is included in the work of the UAC).

7.4 Online Learning Steering Committee –Pat Sims

No report.

7.5 Search Committee for Associate Vice President for Human Resources – Wayne Kelly

Applications are being accepted. Minimum requirements for the position have been revised to attract a larger pool of applicants.

The CoC asked who is directing HR at the moment.

8.0   Old Business
        8.1 None
9.0   New Business
        9.1 Development of CoC priorities for 2016-2017

Faculty Handbook Issue: Dr. Kinnell will send out language pertaining to tenure and promotion reviews in departments.

Kate Howard from Admissions as a visitor.

Guidance on ACA, specifically GAs, and hiring them as adjuncts.We need to wait 6 months to hire a GA after they graduate. The issue seems to be one of lowering benefits eligibility.

9.2 Academic Master Plan

The CoC offers a unique perspective to the development of the AMP.

Flexibility under certain action items will be needed because all units cannot address all items in column 2.

Service should be reinforced.

Faculty compensation should be addressed.

Faculty retention needs to seem at least as important as faculty recruitment.
All of 6 should be moved to 5.

The "inclusiveness" SPP seems to be about recruiting new faculty and developing inclusiveness. SPP5 is more about retention of faculty.

Some discussion was had about promoting the image and reputation of the institution. Suggested verbiage the? "Service that promotes the reputation and image of the institution" SPP4?

Can service be viewed as faculty participation in the shared governance of the institution? This would be included in SPP 6.

Overall, it seems that the "international" endeavors of the institution are missing. Perhaps this is a general question to the ALT: How important is this to the institution now?

10.0   Adjourn