2014-15:3

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
THE STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 4, 2014
3:15-5:00 p.m.

Board Room, Administration Building


Absent:  President Simon, Provost Youatt, M. Chavez, J. Conwell, L. McCabe, A. Paginini

The meeting was called to order at 3:20 p.m.

Approval of Agenda for November 4, 2014:

The Agenda for November 4, 2014 was approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes for October 7, 2014:

The Minutes for October 7, 2014 were approved as presented.

President's Remarks:  President Simon is out of town.

Provost's Remarks:  Provost Youatt is out of town.

The Steering Committee Chairperson's Remarks:

Deborah Moriarty invited everyone to attend the Schubertiade Concert next Monday, November 10, 7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium.  Student tickets are free, if the performance is not sold out five minutes before curtain.  Contact School of Music for details.

Dean Karen Klomparens, from the Graduate School, will be presenting at the Faculty Senate next Tuesday regarding items that came in from the Faculty Senate survey.

Terry Curry reported that President Simon and Provost Youatt are currently at the American Public Land Grand Conference in beautiful Orlando, Florida.

Faculty Health Care Council Focus Group Report and Membership:

Professor Davidson reported that when the Faculty Health Care Council (FHCC) was approved last year nine members were approved, three for each of 2-, 4- and 6-year terms, with eligibility to be re-elected not more than once.  One of the original nine resigned and needs to be replaced.  The FHCC had a request from the Union of Non-Tenured Faculty (UNTF) to have a designated position on the FHCC.  The original specification of nine seats on the FHCC did not have any sort of constituency representation in mind.  The granting of a specific representative position would be difficult to manage given the current nine-member designation.  It would be possible to replace Bill Given from Human Medicine, who has resigned, and use that slot to add the individual from UNTF either as a representative of that group or just as a member.  It would be possible to do both and increase the size of the group to ten, but that would require action from the Board of Trustees because they approved the group of nine.  The FHCC was contacted last summer regarding representation from the UNTF.  Since the FHCC members are appointed by the Steering Committee, the FHCC agreed to invite a UNTF representative to attend meetings with voice, but that the Steering Committee would have to discuss the designation of a seat on the FHCC for specific faculty groups.  Chairperson Moriarty recommended that the Steering Committee take up the discussion in stages and that the Steering Committee vote on replacing the seat created by a resignation.  A motion was made to appoint James Dudziak, Lyman Briggs fixed-term faculty to the FHCC.  The appointment is a replacement and not a designated UNFT replacement.  The motion was seconded and carried.  Following the vote, Chairperson Moriarty indicated that the composition of the FHCC and the process for appointments must be written into the Bylaws for Academic Governance.  It is important to have the process clearly enumerated to preserve the work of
the FHCC in representing faculty. She asked that the FHCC consider the process and make recommendations to the Steering Committee regarding the language of FHCC appointments.

Faculty Health Care Council Focus Group Report and Membership:
Professor Davidson reported that, during the month of October, the Council conducted four focus groups regarding the proposed on-site Faculty Health Care Center. An important finding from the discussion was that faculty members in attendance were generally unaware of the details of their health care benefits. On the positive side, there seemed to be a general consensus that, if the new center were to be implemented with the quality and access that has been modeled, faculty would be very interested. On the negative side, there was some skepticism about the ability to actually realize such a model. The FHCC will pull together a summary of discussions and incorporate them into a set of “frequently asked questions” and prepare them for presentation.

Discussion Feedback from the October 14 Faculty Senate Meeting – E-Training Video used for Staff:
Professor Moriarty indicated the availability of a summary of the complete information derived from the Faculty Senate discussion. The summary will be an attachment for the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Bicycle Safety:
During the last Faculty Senate meeting Professor Francese addressed campus safety, especially as it relates to pedestrians, bicycles, motor bike, car, trucks and busses. He suggested that this issue be forwarded to UCFA, UCSA and UCGS for discussion.

It was suggested that the individual committees identify a list of questions regarding the safety issue that would be reported to the Steering Committee. A common theme expressed by Senators was that there has to be some sort of enforcement of existing rules. A motion was made to send to UCFA, UCSA and UCGS. The motion carried. Professor Moriarty requested the questions be compiled and returned to the Steering Committee for the December 2 meeting. The questions will be forwarded to the All University Traffic and Transportation Committee (AUTTC), Department of Police and Public Safety Oversight Committee (DPPOS) and Campus Planning. It was recommended that Jeff Kacos, Director of Campus Planning, be contacted to determine his availability to attend the Faculty Senate meeting in January.

Faculty Senate Survey and Assignments to Committees – Reports from Committee Chairpersons:
Professor Moriarty said she would introduce the chairs of each of standing committee and ask them to identify the issues raised in the Faculty Senate survey that would be on future agendas for their committees.

Integrity of Scholarship and Grades Policy Changes – Follow-up – Report by UCGS
Professor Straus stated UCGS has not met and he will provide a report at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Audio Minutes:
Professor Powell asked the Steering Committee to consider whether they would like audio (MP3) files embedded in the minutes that would enable members to listen to the complete text of a discussion. Since Steering Committee meetings are digitally recorded, there are a number of opportunities to take a 10 or 15 minute segment out of the minutes and create an MP3 file and simply link it to the minutes. This would be in addition to the written minutes. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made to have the Steering Committee’s meetings be put on the Steering Committee’s website as a MP3 file. There was a motion to amend that added, “on a meeting by meeting basis”. The amended motion was approved. Professor Noel moved that, at the end of Spring Semester, The Steering Committee would review this decision and have another discussion. The motion carried.

A member moved that a similar policy be recommended to, and voted on, by the full Faculty Senate and University Council. The motion carried.

New Business:
Professor Crimp reported that we have many wonderful things in Academic Governance but that nothing flows back very effectively to colleges, and that may be, in part, because the bylaws have the quirky feature that the chairs of all the college advisory committees, or their designees, will be on University Council and Faculty Senate. He suggested that communication breaks down at that point. He asked whether the designee is assigned for one meeting; and whether the designee reports to the CAC. A motion was made to send this to the University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG). The motion carried.
Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate for November 11, 2014:

- Public Comments - Joseph Francese
- UCC Report (Action Item) – Professor Anthony Paganini
- Graduate School’s New Home – Karen Klomparens (Information Item)
- Discussion Feedback from the October 14 Faculty Senate Meeting – E-Training Video used for Staff – Professor Moriarty (Information Item)
- Faculty Senate Survey and Assignments to Committees – Reports by Standing Committee Chairpersons (Information Item)
- Audio Minutes – Professor John Powell

A motion was made to approve the Faculty Senate agenda. The motion carried.

Draft Agenda for University Council for November 18, 2014:

- Public Comments
- Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) – Professor Sue Carter – moved to January meeting

A motion was made to approve the University Council agenda. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.