

University Coordinating Council
April 1, 2016, Mtg #10
Approved 04/15/16

Attendees: Chancellor Black, Nathan Ernst, Viktor Nemykin, Marc Seigar, Julie Slowiak,
Joel Youngblom
Excused: Rodger Brannan, Cody Brumbaugh

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The March 18, 2016, meeting minutes were approved as written.

Information Sharing

Faculty Council, Marc Seigar, Chair

The council met twice since the last UCC meeting. Mac Liebl, Student Association, attended the meeting to discuss revisions of the Midterm Grade Alerts for Academic Performance and the Teaching and Learning: Instructor and Student Responsibilities policies. The council indicated the proposed revisions for the policy on Teaching and Learning: Instructor and Student Responsibilities are appropriate, but they felt the Midterm Grade Alerts for Academic Performance policy is now redundant. They also felt that there is a need for a procedure for handling cases with the faculty who are non-compliant with the policy. Nathan shared information from the student satisfaction survey which indicated the students feel strongly that they are not receiving timely feedback and are looking for a resolution. A faculty member suggested adding a procedure after the first paragraph of the Teaching and Learning: Instructor and Student Responsibilities. The procedure would state the step-by-step process needed for a student to take action. Due to the importance of student success and the indicator on the student satisfaction survey, Chancellor suggested this policy be reviewed by EVCAA Brian Levin-Stankevich and the Council of Deans.

- The *Graduate Council* is in the process of scheduling meetings and campus visits for the vacant position of Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Education.
- The *Curriculum Subcommittee* has met four times this semester. The meetings were devoted to discussing academic and curricular effects, academic calendar, credit for prior learning, course designations, high school preparation requirements, midterm grade alerts for academic performance, and the study abroad policies coinciding with the needs of the colleges.

At the Faculty Assembly meeting there were complaints that the governance meeting minutes were not posted timely on the governance website. This was not the case as minutes are posted promptly. Marc created an additional site for Faculty Council that will contain a list of major initiatives and will link to governance on the Chancellor's webpage. The Chancellor's Office maintains all governance information (i.e. minutes, membership) located on the link provided <http://www.d.umn.edu/chancellor/governance/>.

The Board of Regents will visit campus on April 5-6, 2016. A meet and greet with faculty and staff has been scheduled. The Faculty Council and Staff Council met for a joint council meeting and agreed there is a lack of social space on campus for gathering and engaging in conversations with staff and faculty outside of home departments. These conversations are very important and can improve the campus climate. A faculty member suggested that when the CAMS Building is built it may free up additional space on campus and maybe Griggs Center could be repurposed as a social space. Chancellor applauded both Marc and Joel for their work on the continued efforts with faculty and staff. Chancellor encouraged Marc and Joel to continue to explore possible areas

for a shared space, but also stated that Griggs Center is used heavily for various events and meetings.

Student Association, Nathan Ernst, Chair

The Student Association elections are complete. The spring retreat will be held on April 16, 2016, to set initiatives, and train leadership. The Academic Affairs Committee is researching the Open Textbook Network (OTN) which enables professors and faculty to have the option to access free books and save money for students. Senators Al Franken of Minnesota and Dick Durbin of Illinois are sponsoring a bill, *Affordable College Textbook Act*, in the U.S. Senate that would offer grants to help schools create pilot open textbook programs. The grant process for the distribution of funds to campus groups will begin the week of April 4th. Students participated in the UMD Support the U Day held at the Capitol.

Staff Council, Joel Youngblom, Chair

The Staff Council met twice since the last UCC meeting. Patrick Keenan, Director of Operations for Student Life, presented the UMD Parking and Transportation study. Parking Services may pull the meters from the permit lots, reduce space in the resident lots to expand maroon and white parking areas (maroon and white permits sell out before the green resident permits), and expand the maroon parking lot by the Library. Please access the Parking Services website for the UMD Parking and Transportation Study <http://www.d.umn.edu/parking/> .

The staff employed by the University of Minnesota College of Medicine (Duluth) and the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy (Duluth) are not represented by the Staff Council. The Strategy Sub-council will research and possibly propose a revision to the membership. The Staff Assembly meetings were held the afternoon of Tuesday, March 29 and the morning of Thursday, March 31, 2016. The discussion was focused on item 2 of the proposed budget plan, Academic Administrative Restructuring, presented by Sue Bosell and Greg Sather. The assemblies were very well attended. The Communications Sub-council created a Staff Council elevator speech to be used as a tool to convey the same message to individuals who make inquiries about the Staff Council and its charge.

Teaching & Learning Committee, Julie Slowiak

Mary Keenan and Milan Kovacovic attended the meeting to discuss first year grading policies as a result of the November 4, 2015, Town Hall meeting. Julie specifically referenced the memo from Mary Keenan located in the UCC meeting folder for January 29, 2016. In the memo, the Strategic Enrollment Management subcommittee included suggestions for consideration, such as awarding no credit rather than an F for first year students. Some students struggle in their first year of college; some declare majors that may not be a good fit for them. A thorough audit has not been done, but a preliminary search found that several other schools use a similar system: at MIT if a student earns a grade of D or F, it is recorded as no credit; at Johns Hopkins all first semester courses are taken as S/US, with unsatisfactory counting as no credit. A number of questions were raised: Are there institutions that are more like UMD that have this type of grading policy? What would the implications be for PSEO or CITS students? Is this policy fair to upper level students who get the same low grade? What affect might this have on student's debt? By removing penalties, students could conceivably continue longer than they should because they were not graded. What percentage D's and F's are earned by freshman versus sophomores, juniors, and seniors? Concern was also raised regarding removing accountability for students in regard to grades. Students already have the ability to withdraw up to the 10th week. UMD does not have an academic forgiveness policy, but students can petition to change their grades to a W for medical reasons. A motion was made and seconded to create a workgroup to review data on this topic to further the discussion at a future meeting. The motion was approved.

The High School Preparation standards proposal submitted by Jerry Pepper will be on the agenda for voting on April 13, 2016. The committee questions whether entrance requirements and graduation requirements should be separate issues. Jerry Pepper is proposing to completely remove the policy because it is not being enforced. If the policy is removed what are the consequences? If removed, do we want different graduation requirements? Guests and committee members voiced both the support for and against the proposal--general comments can be found in the TLC 3-30-16 meeting minutes.

Strategic Planning & Budget Committee, Viktor Nemykin, Chair

The committee discussed the compact budget meeting, and the supplemental budget request of \$3.6m, the CAMS Building, and the Maurices Building. UMD and the Twin Cities campus have a discrepancy concerning tuition revenue (UMD \$900k; UMTC \$1.7m). Additional data concerning the discrepancy has been requested from the Twin Cities campus. The committee discussed the Natural Resources Research Institute's (NRRRI) funding sources (please see the Strategic Planning & Budget Committee posted minutes) and noted the director will integrate more with the UMD campus by pursuing joint initiatives. Chancellor Black indicated recruitment is going well for the next year due to initiatives out of the Twin Cities campus. The academic restructuring task forces are formed and will begin discussions in the next couple of weeks on the logistics of the 5 colleges restructuring to 3. Lynne Williams, Director University Marketing and Public Relations discussed the proposed \$650k marketing and recruitment funding and the advertising of programs. Lynne will meet with various individuals and committees on campus to gather input. The Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Committee has submitted a revision to their membership. This is a constitutional change that will be discussed at UCC meeting on April 15, 2016.

- *Strategic Enrollment Management Subcommittee* discussed retention efforts and the 30-60-90 student success roadmap.

- *Facilities Subcommittee* – Using the land by the football stadium a new parking lot containing 140 spaces will be built which will also include space for the medicine wheel garden project. This will be a win/win project because the parking lot run off will help with the garden. Viktor will bring the medicine wheel garden proposal to UCC for action.

Chancellor Black

Chancellor informed members of the passing of John Arthur, a professor in Sociology and Anthropology and also the Faculty Fellow for Strategic Planning.

Legislative – Much of Chancellor's time has been spent lobbying for the Chemistry and Advanced Materials Sciences (CAMS) Building and other projects and meeting with legislators. He attended the Duluth Days at St. Louis County and the UMD Support the U Day where approximately 200 individuals from Duluth/St. Louis County were lobbying at the Capitol. The students have been very active at the lobbying events. Chancellor is hearing positive feedback from legislative leaders about UMD and our projects. The question at this time is how much of a bonding bill will the legislature agree to. There is a state surplus that some legislators would like to invest in the bonding projects to help the state whereas others don't want to spend the surplus. If the bonding bill is reduced that may affect the CAMS project. The Lt. Governor Tina Smith moderated a panel discussion on campus concerning the CAMS Building. Myron Frans, Commissioner at Minnesota Management and Budget, was also involved with the panel discussion. Both are great supporters of UMD.

Chancellor stated the importance of students meeting with the area legislators and encouraging support of UMD, but also stated students need to fulfill their responsibilities academically and

work with faculty to ensure that occurs. Staff are also encouraged to lobby. It was brought to the attention of a faculty member that some faculty may not be accommodating to students interested in attending lobbying events. The Teaching & Learning Committee will be looking at this issue in the future.

The CAMS Building is still the number one building priority for the University of Minnesota system. The number one request is the Higher Education Asset Preservation and Renovation (HEAPR) request. If UMD receives enough HEAPR funds the priority is the Sports and Health Center. The University requested \$100m in HEAPR funds and the Governor requested \$45m. UMD generally receives 9% of what the University receives which if \$45m were allocated UMD may receive a little over \$4m. The total project for the Sports and Health Center is about \$10m. Chancellor had conversations with the legislators informing them of the gap in funds needed for this project. The building was built in 1947 and the roof needs to be reinforced, updates to the heating and ventilation system and the addition of an air conditioning system.

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents are scheduled to visit campus April 5-6, 2016. The Chancellor's Office will coordinate the schedule for the Regents, but does not set the schedule. President Kaler will be on campus May 2, 2016. The President's schedule is based upon what he would like to do during his visit to campus which does include a meeting with faculty and staff. A faculty member suggested a meeting with the chair and vice chairs of governance committees. Chancellor asked if a meet and greet event, similar to the recent Board of Regents visit, would be acceptable. More details will be forthcoming. Chancellor attended a retention meeting with some of the members of the Strategic Enrollment Management Subcommittee on retention that went very well. It's good to see the momentum continue because retention is the key to stabilizing and increasing our enrollment.

The Chancellor requested a review of the Constitution and Bylaws for the University of Minnesota Duluth be placed on the agenda for the April 15, 2016, meeting.

Adjourn