

AGENDA

Educational Policies Committee

Monday, September 14, 2015

604 Cohodas

3:00 p.m.

- I. Introductions**
 - II. Election of EPC Chair**
 - III. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (April 27, 2015)**
 - IV. Approval of Agenda**
 - V. Approval of 2014-15 Annual Report**
 - VI. Business**
 - A. Charlie Mesloh: High School Graduation Trends in Michigan**
 - B. Provost Report Staffing & Budget**
 - C. EPC Bylaws (second reading): B. Graves and K. Schuiling update next time.**
 - D. Criteria for Staffing Decisions:**
 - E. Update on Academic Program Review**
 - 1. 2013-14 cycle**
Psychology: B. Graves
Finance: D. Rayome
 - 2. 2014-15 cycle**
Chemistry: L. Putman – **EPC response**
Computer Science: A. Orf new liaison
Nursing: B. Graves
Accounting: J. Thompson
Criminal Justice: J. Centko new liaison
 - 3. 2015-16 cycle – assign liaisons**
History:
Economics – has completed internal review.
Sociology:
Social Work:
Management:
Entrepreneurship:
 - F. NMUFA Representation**
- VII. Good of the Order**

**EPC Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2015**

Present: D. Rayome, C. Mesloh, J. Thompson, C. Kirk, J. Leonard, D. Kapla, L. Warren, J. Leonard, R. Mead, M. Broadway and B. Graves

Introductions

Election of EPC Chair

L. Warren nominated D. Rayome to serve as Chair. D. Kapla seconded the nomination. Nomination passed.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (April 27, 2015)

Any corrections should be sent to D. Rayome for the next meeting.

Approval of Agenda

C. Mesloh made a motion to approve the agenda. J. Thompson seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of 2014-15 Annual Report

L. Warren moved to approve. J. Thompson seconded. Annual report approved.

Business

A. High School Graduation Trends in Michigan

C. Mesloh presented high school graduation trends in Michigan. There are 20,000 fewer K-12 students in the past 10 years. Based on Terry Seethoff's data, he was correct in predicting a plateau in high school numbers. The number of students in Michigan will continue to drop. There is a 2% drop in college enrollments country-wide. This is believed to be because of an improving labor market.

K. Schuiling said NMU's 1st time freshman from Michigan has gone up. R. Mead asked if the number of Michigan students coming to NMU has increased, where is the decrease coming from? We're losing students from major metro areas.

B. Provost Report Staffing & Budget

K. Schuiling said NMU predicted to be down 100 students, and we are down 423. This created a budget shortfall because we plan for this size decrease in students. Academic Affairs has been asked to come up with an additional \$1.5 million in budget reductions. Students should be held harmless. Dale and Kerri are looking to departments to combine courses and to take a look at reassigned time. Departments need to look at their programs to see what programs can be eliminated. Academic Affairs does not want to be the one making the cuts. When departments are scheduling their courses, they should only open up additional sections when one section fills. R. Mead asked how this would work when early in the semester, departments begin discussing the schedules. D. Kapla said beginning for the winter semester, the Electronic Waiting List will be in place. Departments will monitor waiting lists. R. Mead thinks this is late to begin this. It is agreed that this is late and it may not be easy.

D. Kapla said curriculums need to be streamlined. We can't sustain a 1500 student drop with the same number of programs/courses/faculty.

K. Schuiling, D. Kapla, B. Graves, R. Mead will be attending a conference on academic prioritization in October. M. Broadway has attended this conference. Academic prioritization isn't a pleasant task and decisions shouldn't be taken lightly.

K. Schuiling said we need to get ahead of budget cutting. We need to develop a process to academic and administrative program prioritization. It's a process which uses data and evidence to make decisions. President Erickson has gone through this at another institution and wanted to avoid it but when he saw the student numbers he said yes we need to do this. K. Schuiling believes EPC is the committee to steer this discussion. R. Mead agrees, but it cannot be limited to EPC. EPC cannot make decisions which affect other areas of the university. K. Schuiling may have clarity when they return from the conference. Gavin, Fritz, and Kerri are meeting on decentralization of the adjunct/contingent/overload budgets.

C. Mesloh asked how long can we survive the deficit? D. Kapla said we can defer to the fall of 2016, but we may face another round of cuts.

D. Kapla said EPC's charge is to provide the Provost.

J. Leonard said discussions on what happens and how it happens need to take place with the campus community. Before we move to prioritizing programs we need to have the structure, strategic plan and communications in place so people understand what is taking place. We would like to see access to clear data. Access to accurate data is very important. R. Mead said there are trust and communication issues. J. Leonard suggested Kerri going to each department and talking to faculty face-to-face.

J. Thompson said we should try to project enrollment in 2020 and that should be the target. What are the UP graduation rates? Should Enrollment & Management staff be working on this? C. Mesloh said he is working on getting those figures.

D. Kapla asked Kim Barron if we could suspend APRs. She said there are alternative methods. AQIP is concerned about the process. If we show HLC that we may suspend APRs, but have a prioritization process, they are fine with that. J. Leonard thinks APR is valuable because the departments are forced to look at themselves. If you stop doing it now, people will ask why. M. Broadway said there have been some positive outcomes from APR's.

L. Warren asked whether or not we should begin the 2015/16 cycle. Would it make more sense to directly delay? The reason for the delay is we have a strategic plan in place, folks attending a conference, we may have different questions based on these and they may change during the semester, and we are asking people to fill out a form that's incomplete. B. Graves said we need to address what it is we are putting into the APRs and what is the affect. He doesn't think we are getting bang for our buck. He believes we have 25 departments trying to protect their turf and it's not necessarily good for our students. We have significant things to do and we can't keep going on the way we are.

M. Broadway said meeting with external reviewers was beneficial. It's a way of validating the work being done.

C. Kirk asked if there is anything we can recycle from APR when going through the prioritization? J. Thompson suggested not dropping the APR process until we have a well-defined prioritization process. B. Graves said it sounds like people want to follow through on APR and come up with a plan for prioritization.

D. Kapla said best practice is no more than 120 credits to graduate in a program. We need to look at programs and look at credits that don't meet requirements. This really needs to be addressed. Kim Rotundo looked at programs that require more than 124 credits to graduate.

(Who firsted it?) B. Graves seconded to suspend APRs for the year. 3 approved 3 opposed

C. EPC Bylaws (second reading): B. Graves and K. Schuiling

Please review for the next meeting.

D. Criteria for Staffing Decisions: L. Warren

We will review at the next meeting.

E. Update on Academic Program Review

1. 2013-14 cycle
Psychology: B. Graves
Finance: D. Rayome
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F. NMUFA Representation

K. Schuiling understands this is an AAUP committee, but would like to have an NMUFA rep to attend the meetings to carry messages back to the NMUFA. After discussion it was decided an NMUFA rep would not attend.

Meeting adjourned 4:52