

SPBAC - September 7, 2016, Minutes

The group discussed the document 'Budget Proposal Questions and Concerns to be addressed for the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Advisory Committee, Meeting Sept. 7'. Each question/issue on the document was discussed separately.

President Erickson stated that NMU is down 419 students for a 5.1% decrease, however, we would be studying specifically where the most significant declines are; we are down 57 new freshmen (2%). Vice President VandenAvond mentioned that there has not been a negative impact of students enrolling in online courses since the \$50 online fee per credit hour began in summer 2015.

President Erickson talked about the changes in Advancement. Although there is no longer a Vice President in this division, there is now a new CEO, Brad Canale. President Erickson believes this is a good model for this division. The alumni relations office now falls under the Extended Learning & Community Engagement division.

The 5-year enrollment plan should be released after the Board of Trustees meeting, Sept. 24-25. President Erickson plans to report the draft to the board and get input. We need to increase our number of students in several areas: diversity, Jacobetti Center programs, graduate students and doctoral programs, and international students.

Provost Kerri Schuiling explained the misunderstanding about "eliminating programs with 20 majors or less". This is only a starting point to review programs; it does not mean all programs with 20 majors or less WILL be eliminated. A decision has not been made at this point whether the list will include second majors. Provost Schuiling said that was a decision she was leaving to the Academic Senate's EPC, which is in charge of establishing criteria for the program review.

Provost Kerri Schuiling explained the proposal of eliminating the College of Health Sciences & Professional Studies Office. Provost Schuiling researched Colorado Mesa University has 7,500 students and the elimination of its deans produced "cost savings, more flexibility, and issues go directly to the provost or president so there is no waiting for a decision". The current Restructuring Task Force will make a recommendation regarding this proposal, then approval is needed by EPC.

Discussion followed on eliminating UN100. Jim Gadzinski, Director of Academic & Career Advisement Center, said FYE is very successful here at NMU and nationwide, too. The data is very positive. He proposed alternatives to completely eliminating UN100 from the FYE program. One option is keeping FYE blocks for only freshman probation and college transition program. Another is having larger UN100 classes, and drastically decreasing the number of blocks available. Gadzinski said one of the reasons for proposing changes to UN100 is that there currently is no standard curriculum for teaching FYE.

President Erickson reminded the committee of ways it can help university leadership:

1. Rewriting Mission & Vision statements
2. Continuing budget conversation
3. Facilities discussion (improvements, parking lot elimination, etc)
4. Proposing fundraising opportunities
5. Enrollment growth ideas

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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