AP Committee Meeting Minutes: Monday, April 21st, 2014

Present: Valerie Jones, Mike Kluczyk, Sienna Mavima, John Rosick, Jennifer Schick, Jim Seufert, Josh Stickney

Absent: Kaleb Klotz, Elizabeth Lienau, Kristin Linscott, Scott Richardson, Jamie Schlagel, Kim Walton

1. Reports of officers and subcommittees
2. Chair: Jim Seufert
3. Feedback from Awards Luncheon:
   1. Positive feedback was heard with respect to the food and to focusing the luncheon on the presentation of awards, rather than having a keynote speaker.
   2. The Provost’s Advising & Student Service Award is questioned by some as being appropriate for the Awards Luncheon: the recipient is neither nominated by AP staff nor selected by the Awards Subcommittee, not all AP staff are eligible for the award (although that case can plausibly be made about any of the AP awards), and the recipient is already recognized at the Faculty Convocation. The question was pondered but no solutions put forth.
   3. The question was raised whether or not the week prior to final exams is the best time for the luncheon. It was noted that turn-out was good. It was also questioned how much the academic calendar affects AP staff’s schedules.
   4. During the presentation of the 25-year medallions, President Haas had to find the correct one for each person and unpack it as the names and bios were being read. They should be unpacked ahead of time and either handed to him, or lined up in the order in which they’re presented.
4. Elections: Nominations are open, and elections are ready to be held. AP Staff can nominate people from any group, but they can only vote within their own group.
5. Salary & Benefits: Jennifer Schick
6. Dwight Hamilton, VP of Affirmative Action, and Title IX Officer spoke at the meeting. He articulated the university’s position that affirmative action IS constitutional despite recent challenges in court to some state university admissions policies. He also explained how issues with veterans and persons with disabilities are being brought under the umbrella of his office.
7. Open Forum: Jim Seufert and John Rosick
8. We have a lineup of speakers. Each will speak to issues relevant to his or her position and then entertain questions from attendees.
9. Questions will be solicited through the AP website to be asked during the Q/A sessions. Committee members are encouraged to drum up both attendance and questions from colleagues.
10. Pursuant to responses to the AP Survey, webcasting the forum for the benefit of non-Allendale staff was considered. However, technical and fiscal questions make it improbable that it will be realized this year.
11. Jim Bachmeier—VP of Finance and Administration
12. Enrollment and Retention:
13. GVSU enrollment remains stable, while our peer institutions have struggled with issues related to declining enrollment. While our enrollment is stable, it is a dynamic stability—that is, within the university there are departments whose enrollment is increasing, while that of others is decreasing. Allocation of resources can be tricky: given that revenues remain constant, how do we add staff to growing departments? It may be the case that a department of decreasing enrollment may have been understaffed for many years and is only now at an appropriate level of staffing. Staffing levels for the university increase at a rate of about 1% per year, presenting interesting challenges when revenues remain constant (flat).
14. Annually, GVSU now ranks second (behind Michigan State) in baccalaureate degrees awarded. Time-to-graduation has shortened notably. Since students no longer pay tuition after graduation, this adds pressure to recruitment and retention efforts. AP staff has an important role to play insofar as we create a friendly and welcoming environment—not to mention a well-run university—where students want to be.
15. State Funding:
16. Our state allocation, per pupil, remains by far the lowest in the state. About 83% of our expenses related to educating students are paid with tuition dollars. Most of the remaining 17% comes from the state. Housing, dining, and bookstore operations are funded 100% by students. Overall, the annual budget is around $400M in round numbers, with a state allocation of $52M. By contrast, Western Michigan University, with an enrollment smaller than ours, receives a state allocation $40M greater than ours.
17. Prospects for increased funding? The coming year sees a 9.5% increase in our state allocation (the largest increase, BY PERCENT, of any state university), but a 9.5% increase in 17% of one’s budget has limited impact. Funding for K-12 schools in MI is based fundamentally on enrollment. However, enrollment is not a variable at all in whatever formula the legislature has for higher education funding. Changing this is a slow process, complicated by the term limits on our legislators.
18. Facilities:
19. If you calculate our square footage per student (roughly 100 ft2), it comes out to roughly half the state average.
20. We have built a lot recently and had to borrow a good deal to accomplish it. We retain our A+ credit, while some peer institutions have seen their credit downgraded. Building will have to be planned and prioritized carefully.
21. Adjourn. Next scheduled meeting: Monday, May 19th, KC 2201 at 2:30. Guest speaker: Matt McLogan, VP for University Relations, with legislative update.

Minutes submitted—Joshua Stickney