

**University Budget Advisory Committee Meeting (UBAC)
30 October 2013**

In attendance: Nabil Al-Tikriti (chair); Rick Pearce, David Rettinger, Dan Hubbard, Les Johnson, Paul Messplay, Stephen Farnsworth, Dana Hall, Cedric Rucker, Douglas Searcy, Joe Romero, Colin Rafferty, Christine Porter, Nicole Surething, Patricia Reynolds, Torre Meringolo

Meeting began at 4:02 PM. Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed; a revised version will be e-mailed to the committee and approved electronically.

Al-Tikriti pointed out that he'll be absent from the next meeting; Reynolds will chair that meeting. In addition, Rafferty will be absent from the meeting, so we'll need a replacement secretary.

Today's meeting is a report from the Division of Student Affairs. Doug Searcy, VP for Student Affairs, and his colleagues reported on the roles Student Affairs plays on campus, providing a base for our budget discussions.

Student Affairs: Searcy reported that Student Affairs works outside of the classroom to help students learn, grow, and lead via a co-curricular experience. To accomplish this, they maximize student services, support student connections, and create a "seamless learning" environment. Doing so benefits the students, the faculty, and the university, both now and down the line.

"Seamless Learning" holds that academic inquiry + out-of-class activity = learning. All of what Student Services does is based in cognitive theory—how students make decisions. Student Affairs works with Goal #2 of the strategic plan ("create a distinct UMW experience") and Goal #3 ("promote diversity and inclusion").

Center for Honor, Leadership, and Service: David Rettinger (Center for Honor, Leadership, and Service) spoke about the Center's vision: have students incorporate the values of honor, leadership, and service into their lives in school and beyond. Their responsibility is to help students understand how honor, leadership, and service affect their everyday lives. They also seek to "foster collaboration among all members of the UMW community." He explained the many initiatives undertaken by the CHLS in the three areas.

Student Life: Cedric Rucker spoke on Student Life. Literature indicates that quality and quantity of student engagement are keys to retention, development, and satisfaction. He emphasized the holistic experience's role in student life. Rucker stated that the students who leave are the ones who aren't connected (and vice versa), and discussed how his group works with students to generate a sense of connectedness to the community, thereby fostering lifelong learning. He explained the organization of Student Life, including Judicial Affairs, Campus Recreation, the James Farmer Multicultural Center, Student Activities and Engagement, Residence Life and Commuter Student Services, and University Police. Student Life provides support for student needs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and they support curricular objectives that emphasize learning outcomes. Rucker also spoke of the UMW Cares and BIT teams and their goal to create a safe learning environment.

BIT/CAPS: Nicole Surething (director of CAPS) spoke on the mission of Counseling and Psychiatric Services. Their goal is to help students take charge of their lives by encouraging them to be responsible for their lives. They provide comprehensive mental health services to undergraduates. This year, they're able to offer psychiatric assessment thanks to being able to hire a part-time psychiatrist. In addition, they provide prevention and outreach services to the UMW and local communities to help stave off crises before they arrive. Also, they offer a graduate training program to help train future mental health

professionals. CAPS and BIT collaborate with local hospitals. The school has seen an increase in BIT meetings of 128%.

Residence Life and Commuter Services: Chris Porter spoke on what RLCS does. They generate \$8M per semester, most of which goes back into the UMW community. They create an environment that allows students to feel safe and comfortable by collaborating with Facilities and Housekeeping as well as students to make sure everyone is aware of what needs to be done. They educate students on appropriate behavioral expectation, and hold them accountable for transgressions, as well as help them mediate conflicts. They participate in “well-checks,” in which they visit a student that a community member has expressed concern about; they are “normally first boots on the ground, with Campus Police.” They run the living/learning communities, provide leadership opportunities, help students learn how to make sound decisions, and expose students to a more diverse set of programming. In terms of commuters (1/3 of students live off campus.), RLCS works with the community to foster goes town/gown relationships. They plan to add an online housing system, an off-campus housing resource, a system of furniture replacement, and a plan for on-going renovation of residence halls.

Athletics: Doug Searcy, standing in for Ken Tyler, talked about Athletics’ role as the “front porch” of the university. By supporting recruitment, we support increasing the number of out-of-state students. Strong athletics result in an increased economic boost to the university. There are 23 Varsity sports. UMW has one of the lowest student athletic fees in the state; in addition, Tyler is committed to raising 100K for Athletics.

Questions

Reynolds asked if there’s a 128% increase in crisis situations, and the on-site psychiatrist is here six hours a week, how do you meet the need? Surething responded that BIT responds to much, but the difficulty is the low availability in the region. UMW pays 29K for the academic year. Searcy suggested that the improvements in the system could account for the jump; this year’s 33% increase in crises is a more reliable rate. Hall stated that last year’s UBAC approved funding for the psychiatric position. Surething discussed what was possible with the psychiatric position (ie, prescriptions), but stressed that they could do more. Searcy pointed out that 9% of the student body is on medication.

Reynolds brought up the crises that graduate students face. How often does CAPS see them? How does Student Life respond to them. Surething responded that her purview is undergraduates. Rucker stated that the BIT had responded to graduate student crises, but the focus of their programs are undergraduates.

Hall asked if graduate students lived in Eagle Village. Porter said that it was between 10-15, and that should those students need help, they receive help. Surething responded that her office did the same thing. Searcy replied that in a broader sense, Reynolds might be asking what co-curricular programs do they offer for graduate students Reynolds asked if we meet the needs of our entire community. Searcy stated that history has shown that some groups need more of some services than others. Rucker pointed out that they had met with graduate faculty to talk about needs. Reynolds stated that unfortunately, these services are not well-advertised to the graduate population.

Farnsworth asked about this process of trying to understand what’s going on, and the assistance of comparative information. Does Student Affairs see this trend happening statewide? Rucker replied yes. Surething stated that two annual reports show that this trend is nationwide. Searcy stated that Title IX, Dear Colleague letter, and Title II have changed their roles, requiring them to intervene in suicide threats. Romero asked what the school’s liability in those situations? Searcy said that SA refers students to Snowden; when they return, they meet with Rucker to determine if they’re ready to return to the community; if so, then SA follows up with them on a daily basis for a good while. It’s a significant time investment. Farnsworth asked what was available to off-campus students, as on-campus students are

likely more easy to identify. Rucker said that they do the same thing, since the network of information sharing is still there. There's a way to get these students, even if they live off campus. Surething stated that they get a lot of referrals from roommates and friends, as well as faculty.

Al-Tikriti asked they see as budgetary challenges or areas of particular growth. Searcy responded that AC in the dorms is near the top of the list. Whatever we choose, it should affect as many students as possible. Porter stated that they had added almost 1000 beds since she had started here, but the furniture budget hasn't changed. They have fallen significantly behind on this—it impacts almost 2,700 students. Searcy said that the greatest investment is in people. When they get the right person in a position, the value of the service they provide is far more than what they are paid. CAPS needs people. Judicial Affairs needs people. Reynolds asked if the four positions in Multicultural Affairs would be able to support initiatives in the Admissions office. Searcy responded, affirmatively, stating that the goal they set five years ago—provide more opportunities—had not yet been met. He described how four years ago, they created a graduate student model, paying students to work 20 hours a week in various areas. These positions have paid off significantly.

Farnsworth stated that one thing that has come up has been the problematic numbers of people getting into academic trouble, asking what mechanisms SA was developing to deal with what we in the classroom see as a significant problem. Searcy stated that what they sometimes worry about is overinvolvement on the part of students. SA does things outside of class to help students set priorities. Rucker stated that they recognize the shift, and work to increase student awareness of resources. Porter added that Residence Life staff is trained to talk to students. Searcy said that the one group that would respond to that the most is the enrollment management committee in Academic Services, and that Orientation is a big part of that. Meringolo stated that if the school has more academically at-risk students, that works against what Student Life is trying to do. Reynolds stated that this kind of student is what the school is going to start getting, the products of the standards environment. Hall said that faculty will have to make adjustments. Searcy brought up the NESSI data on student expectations of grades. Here, students expect Bs and Cs; elsewhere, As and Bs. Al-Tikriti said that UMW hasn't had the same level of grade inflation.

Al-Tikriti asked Pearce if the school matches what's being spent at other institutions? Pearce responded that it's tough to match up because everyone's organized differently. Searcy stated that SA at UMW is on the skinnier side; they work very hard.

Meeting adjourned at 5:27.

Submitted by Colin Rafferty, Secretary