Thursday, September 9, 2021

In Attendance: Kim Gower (Chair), Shumona Dasgupta (Secretary), John Broome, Michael Benson, Paul Fallon, Debra Schleef and Rita Dunston

Agenda:

1. Call to Order: 4:02pm
2. Meeting Minutes (previously approved online)
3. Old Business:
   1. Proposal to the Faculty Senate regarding short, between semester and summer "mini-mesters" to fulfill student, faculty, and revenue needs (more information is available in our 21/22 One Drive folder).

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding starting the J- term in 2023. The pros include positive student and faculty feedback and the potential to generate extra revenue. The cons include the scheduling, especially in the context of how it would change the entire academic calendar. It would push commencement to after the May 15th deadline every few years - would this entail changing faculty contract dates? There seems to be some need to revisit the policy around graduation. Should all the faculty be required to attend graduation if/when we go back to traditional graduations again? The availability of resources was a concern- by when would the Speaking and Writing Center, Financial Aid, Registrar, IT etc. be staffed in case we decided to go ahead with the J- term?

Rita Dunston iterated that Financial Aid would also be a major concern.

The Proposal was tabled for now.

3.2 Discussion about a 3-week Maymester

A lengthy discussion ensued. According to Rita Dunston, UMW already has 3-week special sessions. There are other courses which begin in May and run through August. The department of Psychology has something like this. Kim Gower talked about flexibility with the semester format as being the way of the future. This would also meet the needs of transfer and other non-traditional students.

It was established that most UMW faculty didn’t seem to know that these options already exist.

According to Debra Schleef, faculty will be surveyed about the J- term- how many faculty would do this in a serious, sustained way? What are the parameters going to be? What resources would be needed?

Paul Fallon asked whether these classes would be in synchronous/asynchronous format.

The matter will be brought to the UFC, the calendar shared with colleagues before the survey is to be filled out.

1. New Business
   1. Address our Faculty Handbook members and our duties, and confirm our secretary.

Shumona Dasgupta will continue as secretary through the Fall 2021 semester. Paul Fallon will be secretary in Spring 2022. The UAAC minutes have to be posted a week before the UFC meetings.

1. Announcements

The UAAC will meet once a month at 4:15pm on Thursdays through Fall 202.

Adjournment: 5:05pm.