Exempt Staff Spring Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 11, 2011  
1:30-3:00, MOH 210 and MHC 304

Members present: Linda Dorn, John Barron, Margaret Cahill, Liz Dussol, Nate Rolloff, Kim Schumann, Sandy Schwartz, Jerry Sweeney, Tony Lewno  
Absent: Kay Wimer

Linda started with an introduction of the new members and that we have a tie for the third academic seat with a ballot coming out this week. Linda also listed the current members that will remain as well as those leaving the council.

Mark Vangsgard started with the FY11 projections which we are currently in and some of the challenges we have faced. The projection was for $5.1M unfavorable to UST. There was a shortfall of grad credits, faculty early retirement expenses, and faculty equity increases, and we were over budget on undergrad financial aid.

Staff and faulty early retirement savings helped, as did moving to day cleaning of buildings. More structured external purchasing practices, centralized travel, and internal purchasing of products and services helped as well. The dependent audit of the medical plan done by HR also helped financially. This helped with $4.7M to cover the $5.1. Through the year there have been variations in certain expenses and we have been able to cover remaining amounts.

For the FY12 budget, we have increased 5.2% tuition and fees, 4.9% comprehensive fee increase. For MN Private colleges, we are near the low end for comprehensive fee and 5 year average which means we have done well at managing our increases. For FY11 comprehensive fee we are about in the middle, coming in 8th. Just a few years ago we were 4th highest.

For FY12 we are trying to manage our financial aid package down 13% from FY11. From FY10 to 11 we increased 12%. We have had limited growth in our annual net revenue the past few years.

FY12 – managing down financial aid, estimated 20 faculty voluntary retirements, new positions for AARC mainly covered by revenue of the building

Other factors - 2.9% salary increase, faculty equity increase, 10% increase in medical expenses, 3 FTE new faculty positions, 2.3 FTE new admin positions, 16.1 FTE new hourly positions

Major capital projects - renovation for relocated IPC, mandated elevator upgrades, additional science labs capacity, replacement of tile roof on AQU, replacement of tile roof on Bernardi in Rome.
Key challenges for FY12 – enroll a freshmen class of 1350, reduce the freshmen financial aid discount rate

Questions:

What happens to MHC when the new building is running? A majority of departments will move out but some will remain and some others will move in. Some of this will depend on funding as it may take a bit to remodel certain areas to be functional for other departments to move in.

What is the graduate school growth plan – this is still the main growth driver of the institution. Each school has had to pull together a plan more specific for their school.

Mark Dienhart then started to discuss the state of the university, update on some projects, and capital campaign, strategic planning.

State of the university - we are a bit of a rarity in that we have survived past 1950 from being established prior to 1900, few have survived that duration. We have a record undergrad enrollment but are lower on grad enrollment and we are an enrollment driven institution. We have a number of accreditations with some of our schools working on their accreditation now. 80% of the students that come here report that we were their 1st choice, so we don’t have a lot of 2nd choice students come here. U of M is a prime competitor for us. 81% of our students are employed 1 year from graduation, 8% part time and only 7% unemployed.

We are at $443M in the capital campaign with an end date in Oct. We recently reached a $25M match offer. There are new buildings going up as you can see but many results of the campaign will come in future years. We need to see where we are budget-wise before a final decision happens on replacing the tennis courts. 2 potential spots have been identified but 1 area is more expensive.

There was a change in the bylaws of the university recently to protect UST from being run inefficiently should a search for a new candidate be ineffective.

Staff equity – we are working on the faculty equity currently and will attempt to then work on staff equity. This will be something addressed next fiscal year.

What do you, Dr. Dienhart, see as the biggest part of keeping this “ship” afloat? Dr. Dienhart – we seem to be well prepared for challenges, and what we need to do is not ignore circumstances around us. We need to keep a focus on our mission and what’s going on around us but there are challenges to keep our costs down as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Nate Rolloff