UMES Senate Meeting

Minutes for February 12, 2013

11am Frederick Douglass Library

I. The Meeting was called to order at 11:00.
   Apologies: Dr. LaKeisha Harris.

II. A motion to approve the December 11th minutes was made by Dr. Robert Johnson and seconded by MS. Michele Demanche. The vote was approved and carried.

III. Dr. Nykiel, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs shared his background and expertise that has led to his current position at UMES. He shared that he serves as the Dean of deans; will work on the academic side to enhance a dynamic curriculum; achieving delivery results in teaching and excellence and retention; closing the gap on retention and recruitment; increase allocation to faculty development; support efforts of faculty development; to the Alumni work on increasing value of the UMES degree that will make the university increase in perception of a quality degree; reposition the UMES brand worldwide. He informed the body of his office location and contact information should faculty and staff need to reach him and share ideas.

IV. Dr. Wesson, Vice President Research and Economic Development, presented his background and expertise that led him to the current position he has at UMES. He stated that his philosophy is to promote research through the office of sponsored programs, grants and accounting; he expressed the need to use the allocated grant awards of $15-20 million surplus be used through re-investment opportunities. As director of the Hawk Corporation he plans to leverage intellectual property of UMES and develop and foster growth in areas such as renewable energy. Dr. Wesson informed the body about meeting community leaders and feeling welcomed. He shared his office location and contact information. He invited members to visit and share ideas with him.

V. Dr. Bell welcomed the body to another wonderful year at UMES; she thanked Dr. Nykiel and Dr. Wesson for their remarks and serving on her team. Dr. Bell also thanks Dr. Walker on serving as interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Walker will stay on for a while and serve as special assistant to Dr. Nykiel while he transitions into the position and undertake special projects on retention and recruitment.

On budget matters, the president shared that UMES will be among the 8 institutions that will testify before the legislature and Senate on February 27th for House testimony, March 4th for Senate testimony. The USM budget has money for a little increase in funding to support initiatives. Additional resources have been used to support center for academic access and success, STEM, aligned with Governor’s priorities. The legislative black caucus identified additional support for four HBCUs from the governor at $3.5
million for each institution to increase regular faculty and needs based financial aid. There was a rally on February 4th with 200 hundred students to support the effort, along with eastern shore legislators. The president requested talking points to be sent to her for the upcoming rallies and testimonies. Engineering and Aviation Science buildings are in the budget for this year. She reported that Homecoming week was a time to engage in many activities as possible and letting alumni know about support needed. Dr. Rahimi enquired if there were any funds for the library in the budget. Dr. Bell’s response stated the opportunity to re-visit the capacity and feasibility of a new library versus renovation.

VI. Old Business

- Update on Exploration of Guardrails Committee
  Dr. Talley reported that a meeting will be set up for the following week for the larger committee with Ms. Collier. He invited the President’s office representative, SGA representative, and any other interested participants. The initial members are Ms. Figgs, Ms. Collier, Dr. Talley, and Dr. Rahimi. A suggestion was made about having Physical Plant and Police department representatives on the committee.

- Mrs. Lisa Johnson: UMES Policy on employment of adjunct faculty draft
  The policy was set at the System level and seeks approval from UMES Senate on adjunct II status; shared governance; the System has amended the draft on page 3 to address payment for class cancellation; page 6 specifies about due process, grievance procedures and termination; page 7 specifies about shared governance which is expanded greatly; meet and confer is also addressed. A three-person adjunct faculty committee is in place which comprises of Drs. McCabe, Purnell-Ayers, and Madonna Johnson. Dr. Chapin moved for an approval of the vote. It was seconded by Dr. Robert Johnson. Dr. Chapin encouraged those that employ adjunct faculty to read the document properly as there are financial consequences. The document is available on the UMES Senate webpage and Adjunct faculty webpage under the Academic Affairs website.
  Dr. Talley enquired if there would be practical changes with the approval. Mrs. Johnson stated that there would be a ‘cheat sheet’ that would be developed for those changes.
  Mrs. Billie reported that for the most part things are done well in terms of getting adjunct faculty on board; there needs to be 30 days advance notice of hire, 30 days before for cancellation of classes. There have been four to five cases on class cancellation wherein the faculty chose to resign.
  Dr. Hopwood enquired on the remuneration for undergraduates and graduates and eligibility of three-person committee. Mrs. Billie responded
that the Senate was the forum to address changes to be made if the situation presented itself and what a challenge it was to have the committee. The vote to approve the policy was carried.

• Mr. Joseph Bree: Academic Affairs Committee
  The Academic Affairs committee approved changes made to the Professional Golf Management curriculum to add CSPD and BUAD as support classes and the elimination of PGMT 475 as a support course, and changes to PGMT 470 to a 3 credit course, and adding PGMT 340. The motion to approve was moved by Ms. Demanche and seconded by Dr. Mark Williams. The vote was approved. Rehabilitation Services added RECN 721 and changed RPSY 231 to RSPY 331 and added MATH 210 as a pre-requisite. The motion to approve was made by Ms. Demanche, and seconded by Dr. Mark Williams. The vote was approved. Aviation Science added AVSC 170, AVSC 310, AVSC 390, AVSC 475, and AVSC 485. AVSC 170 and AVSC 390 were added as support courses. The motion to approve was made by Dr. Chapin and seconded by Ms. Demanche. The vote was approved. Pharmacy modified PHAR 542. Curriculum changes were made to PHAR 571, 572, 671, 672. Courses PHAR 561, 562, 661, and 662 were added to the curriculum. The motion to approve was made by Dr. Mark Williams and seconded by Ms. Demanche. The vote was approved. Education added a hybrid option to the courses SPED 600 and EDUC 620. Courses SPED 628 and SPED 660 were added. The motion to approve was moved by Dr. Mark Williams and seconded by Dr. Chapin. The vote was approved. Graduate Studies requested to raise the standardized GPA for admission from 2.5 to 2.75. The motion was moved by Dr. Mark Williams and seconded by Ms. Demanche with an opposition by Dr. Chapin. The vote was approved.

• Ms. Demanche volunteered to take the remainder of the minutes due to the Secretary’s need to go to class. The constitution review committee will discuss constitution related matters at the March meeting.

• Dr. Nina Lyon Bennett: Faculty/Staff survey
  Dr. Bennett reported on the development of a survey to address the working climate at UMES. Mrs. Lisa Johnson and Ms. Downing will lead the committee. Ms. Robin Burton and Ms. Demanche agreed to serve on the committee.

• Dr. Robert Johnson: Math retention challenge
  Dr. Robert Johnson reported on the math initiative based on a summer workshop to standardize courses conducted. Faculty members currently
donate 2 hours to tutor from 10 am -4 pm in the tutoring center. The pilot program last semester involved non-STEM students who were supposed to take MATH 101. The program was relatively successful based on GPA outcomes when compared to STEM majors. The Math lab and Life Skills Academy assists students in their MATH course undertaking. Dr. Talley stated that this has been helpful to non-STEM students and gives them confidence. Dr. Chapin stated there were many efforts to have better placement to get students in appropriate classes, MATH 102 instead of MATH 109.

Ms. Burton recommended partnering to give assistance for students in freshman level courses. Mrs. Dadson stated she has witnessed students tutoring other students instilling the importance of assistance. Dr. Bell stated that she needed the information with data. Dr. Johnson and committee will provide a report.

Catalog matters: The question was how the catalog is distributed and finding out the existing policy as stated by Dr. Brice-Finch. Dr. Chapin made the motion to have a catalog person come to the March meeting. Dr. Talley seconded the motion.

Dr. McLean talked about the LGT Task Force. He requested the body to serve as members of the task force, under Dr. Jenkins the group is looking at how welcoming we are to our alternative students. He provided a flyer with contact information.

VII. Adjournment
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting was made. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.