Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Sarah Handspike at 11:07 AM.

Attending: Sarah Handspike, Mary Beth Graebert, Joy Landis, Sandra Eagan-Hill, Carmellia Davis-King, Michael Everett, Kristy Dumont, Jo Anne Latimore, Quinn Moreno, Paul Streng and Janet Byrne
Ex Officio: Terry Curry & Donna Zischke
Absent: Lucy Maillette, David Lusch, and Kristin Getter
Speakers: Dave Byelich

Motion to accept the agenda: Motion to approve agenda by Sarah Handspike and seconded by Paul Streng; carried unanimously.

Motion to approve January minutes: Motion to approve minutes with corrections to first item under New Business by Sarah Handspike and seconded by Sandra Eagan-Hill; carried unanimously.

Dave Byelich, Assistant Vice President and Director of Planning & Budgets

- MSU is developing budgets on a two-year basis and taking into account long-term trends (such as federal deficit and the Affordable Healthcare Act). Long-term trends and standings were provided in a handout, along with a handout on MSU’s planning and budget overview.
- MSU’s credit rating remains high, and our additional debt capacity is in the area of $400-500 million. We are in the middle of the Big Ten in terms of debt ratios.
- Endowment performance went up 12.1% last year.
- Appropriations are diminishing in proportion of revenue (replaced by tuition). To be successful long-term, gift income needs to exceed appropriations.
- This year, the Governor has proposed a 6.1% increase in state appropriations. This increase is based on our performance in graduation rates, R&D and tuition restraints, among other things.
- Higher education has gone down from 20% of state appropriations to 12%. Our proportion of the state budget has gone down by one-third. MSU has only increased to tuition by about $65 over inflation.
- MSU is considering alternative tuition approaches, such as incentives for accelerating time to degree, accommodating advance credits, and increasing comparability of tuition and fee structures with peer institutions.
- Units that may be targeted for alternative tuition structures include Osteopathic Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Business, Music and Engineering. Financial aid would need to be responsive to this change. This change could encourage students to move between majors, or to not declare their major until later.
- MSU ranks third in Michigan in terms of revenues per student (behind University of Michigan and Michigan Tech).
- There is some ongoing pressure from other federal budget uses on nondefense R&D (e.g. NSF funding for MSU research).
- MSU is maintaining and improving our provision of education to students from lower income families.
- Over the next several weeks, ASAC will need to consider and submit a letter relative to raise recommendations for specialists.
- About 25% of our academic staff is made up of people who have been hired since MSU eliminated the post-retirement healthcare. As fewer and fewer employees are eligible for this benefit after retirement, legacy costs will go down.
- MSU ranks 7th in the Big Ten for resident tuition and fees, and 3rd for non-resident tuition and fees. In order to attract more non-resident students, we may need to moderate tuition levels for them.
- The budget office is doing some Big Ten trend analysis on faculty salaries; some of the upper Midwest states appear to be moving faster in this regard.
- MSU has immediate costs (e.g. utilities) and long-range planning costs (e.g. new lab buildings) to consider and balance.
- STEM related credit hours have been expanded by about 28%; this contributes to our academic competitiveness.
- There are plans for building a multidisciplinary research center ($200-250 million) on campus and dealing with a lot of HVAC systems that are due for an update.

Chairperson’s update (Sarah Handspike):
- Renee Rivard – Benefits - March 20, 2014 at 11:00
- Thank yous to ASAC – specialists are appreciative of the work of ASAC.

Associate Provost/Associate Vice President for Academic Human Resources update (Terry Curry):
- Thanks to ASAC and Paul Streng in particular for the Provost search; the search committee had a meeting with the President last week, and the ball is in her court.
- Search for deans in Engineering and Communication Arts are ongoing. There will probably be an acting dean for Vet Med next year. We should hear something soon about International Studies and Programs dean.

New Business:
- MSU Distinguished Academic Staff Award
  - There was discussion at the last meeting about expanding the number of awards for academic staff from four to five. The award committee has a very hard job, as do all award committees, in narrowing it down. There is a greater diversity of roles within this award category, but even adding one more slot would not necessarily make their job easier.
  - No advising specialists have received the academic staff award in the past; would it make sense to have a separate award?
There are about 2,000 tenure system faculty and 10 distinguished faculty awards. There are about 1,000 specialists (Donna will check the number) and four awards. Funds for the award come from development, not general fund. Do we get more funds to raise the number of awards or divide the existing amount among five awardees?

Sarah will send out an email to the committee to see if everyone is in agreement about submitting a request to Terry. The announcement will go out in late March.

- 2014 Elections Update (Michael Everett)
  - We have the following nominations: 1 research, 1 outreach, 3 teaching, 8 advising (2 positions open), and no one for curriculum development.
  - We need to re-open the nominations for curriculum development and encourage colleagues, and potentially for all the functional areas.
  - Motion from Mary Beth Graebert to re-open the nominations process until February 28, seconded by Paul Streng; carried unanimously. Mary Beth will send out an email to the listserv this afternoon about the nomination extension.

- Continuing vs. Fixed Term document (Jan Byrne)
  - Drafted a table for posting at the website that contrasts the two appointments (see handout). Donna reviewed it and now the committee would like feedback by next Friday (2/28). Otherwise it will be posted at the website as is.

- Spring Program Update (Sarah Handspike)
  - We have 73 registered for tomorrow. It is being moved across the hall to accommodate more people.

Old Business:
- Photos to Kristin (getterk@msu.edu)
  - Only three or four specialists have their pictures on the website, so please remember to send them to Kristen.

Motion to adjourn by Paul Streng, seconded by Quinn Moreno. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: at 12:22 pm

Next scheduled meeting: March 20th

Attachments:
- Budget Trends Analysis
- Budget & Planning Overview
- Comparison of Fixed-Term and Continuing Specialist Appointments