

UDMPU Board Meeting  
11/10/2009

Present: Mike Canjar, Erika Combs, Jim Lynch, Doug MacDonald, Lorri MacDonald, Stephen Manning, Kris McLonis, Prasad Venugopal, Kate Walters, Joanne Yastik, Larry Zeff

Absent excused: Heather Hill-Vasquez

I. Call to order.

II. Review/approval of minutes

The minutes of the 10/13/09 were approved with two minor changes: the titles "lecturer" and "assistant professor" in IV (f) were capitalized; and the first initial "L." was added before the surname "MacDonald" in the continuation portion of the President's Update (written and submitted by McLonis), to make it clear which MacDonald on the Board was being referenced. The minutes of the 10/27/09 meeting were approved with the capitalization of the titles "lecturer" and "assistant professor" in III (G).

III. Announcements

Manning asked about the status of Marilyn Dow, who had been absent from several prior Board meetings. McLonis explained that Dow had recently been designated the Interim Director of the Dental School Library and, during the time that she would be serving in this administrative role, could not be a member of the UDMPU and thus could not represent the librarians on the Board. It was suggested by Manning that right after the upcoming general membership meeting might be a good time to try to elect a new representative for the librarians. McLonis said that she would try to solicit a suitable candidate from among the librarians before the meeting, scheduled for November 12.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- A. McLonis reported \$52,128.64 in checking and \$70,011.93 in savings, for a total of \$122,140.57.
- B. Recent activity included a checking deposit in the amount of \$17,470.85 for MEA dues and an interest payment of \$8.92 in savings.
- C. McLonis reminded the Board that funds needed to be allocated to purchase pizza for the November 12 membership meeting. Zeff made the motion to allocate up to \$120.00 for refreshments for this purpose. The motion passed.
- D. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report and the motion passed.

## V. Grievance Report

- A. Manning stated that preliminary reports regarding an adjunct load issue in one of the colleges were that “everything is okay”. Manning will do one more follow-up to make sure this is indeed the case. Of particular importance is how the contract language regarding maximum adjunct teaching loads is being interpreted (the limit is two sections or six credits, whichever is less).
- B. Follow-up is still being done regarding a case in one of the colleges of the promotion of a faculty member from Lecturer to Assistant Professor without that faculty member’s possession of a terminal degree and without an outside search being conducted.
- C. In one of the colleges, an area is being cordoned off and a card-swipe system for restricted access to that area is being implemented. There is a stairwell in that area which may be considered a fire escape, and the restricted access to this stairwell may be in violation of fire regulations. Manning is looking into this issue.
- D. Follow-up of the admission of a student lacking the proper prerequisite coursework into a class against the instructions of the faculty member teaching the class; and the changing of a grade given by that same faculty member without going through the established grade grievance process, is continuing.
- E. A motion was made to accept the Grievance Report and the motion passed.

## VI. Education (Certification Testing Issue)

- A. L. MacDonald reported that the Education Department (of the College of Liberal Arts and Education) had received a letter stating that the Department is currently under “corrective action”. It is not yet clear exactly what form the corrective action will take. It is possible that certification in Elementary and Special Education (the areas where the test pass rate is above 80%) will be allowed to continue, while the other programs might be terminated. In the meantime, meetings between professors in Education and those teaching in the content areas where certification testing is taking place have been going well; some progress is being made in determining what additional material in those content areas is necessary for the students in question to pass the tests. A plan for improving the pass rates needs to be in place by six months following receipt of the letter mentioned above.
- B. D. MacDonald asked whether it is appropriate for professors in the content areas to evaluate when students are ready to take the certification tests. He also asked whether a possible future request that a faculty member teaching in a given content area modify a course to address the testing parameters of a student in Education could be seen as an academic freedom issue. Zeff answered that unless anything specifically stated in the contract were violated, these questions wouldn’t be issues for the UDMPU to address.

## VII. Class schedule and Program Review Issues

- A. Manning mentioned that several faculty members who have previously taught in “odd” keys (e.g., an intensive one-week course during the summer term) have reported that such keys have recently been eliminated. He raised the question as to whether this might be a governance issue and further stated the hope that this elimination of odd keys was in response to the scheduling limitations of Banner and not an administrative decision.
- B. D. MacDonald reported that the Psychology Department has been trying to get data regarding all of its programs from Institutional Research to submit for program review and that so far the data has not been forthcoming. He queried the board regarding its position if a program were recommended for termination without having the appropriate data. Venugopal answered that such termination was not likely to happen. It was also mentioned that, as long as the psychology department submitted information that sited it unsuccessful attempts to get the data, it would be clear that this lack was no reflection on the program itself.

## VIII. MEA Fall Representative Assembly

- A. Walters reported on one major development that was discussed at the lunch for members of the Michigan Association of Higher Education (MAHE), the subset of colleges and universities that are part of the membership of the Michigan Education Association (MEA). There is legislation pending (currently in the state House of Representatives) which, if passed, would allow community colleges to grant bachelor’s degrees in select areas. One of these areas is nursing, and Walters explained that more would be required than merely adding more coursework for a nursing program currently accredited to grant associate degrees to become accredited to grant bachelor degrees.

## IX. President’s Report

- A. Canjar reported that the members of the Grievance Committee had met with the administrators of the College of Health Professions regarding the tabulation of workload credits. Apparently the procedures outlined in the contract regarding this tabulation has not been correctly followed in the School of Nursing. A follow-up meeting on this issue has been scheduled for December 7 in CF 208.
- B. Board members in the School of Nursing reported that their faculty members are still not all being listed in Banner as teaching the courses which they have been contracted to teach. Board members from other colleges reported similar problems, as well as the problem of final exam dates for certain courses not being correct. This in particular is causing difficulties as students try to register for winter classes, because if two desired classes appear to have the same exam date and time the registration attempt is rejected.

- C. L. MacDonald reported that she has been receiving bills for a class she is taking (and for which she should be getting a tuition remission). Apparently, the Banner system is unable to recognize her as a faculty member; L. MacDonald had been informed by a staff member in the Registrar that all faculty members taking classes are experiencing this problem.
  - D. The issues described in IV (A) through (C) will be brought up by the UDMPU officers at the next EL meeting, scheduled for November 16.
- X. A motion was made to adjourn and the motion passed with adjournment at 2:10.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris McLonis