UAAC Meeting 3.9.16

Attendees: Nathan Lindsay, Scott Whittenburg, Shali Zhang, Gil Quintero, Dawn Ressel, Betsy Story, Jasmine Laine

Update of accreditation efforts:

- Seattle presentation was more high-profile than Nathan realized. There were hundreds of people and we got good feedback on our presentation. Now we are off the hook for a little while. The next big deadline is next spring. We need to write a 50-100 page report on Mission Fulfillment through General Education Assessment.
- GLI submitted a great report where they assessed Leadership, Critical Thinking and Cultural Awareness. They had good data and good awareness.
- Collegiate Learning Assessment—now we are targeting specific classes rather than trying to recruit students at large. It’s open until the end of April.
- Departmental Assessment Reports will be due in December, so we will be notifying programs later this week that the reports will be due. The templates will be largely the same, with some different directions that might help us pull out some information for our accreditation work to show student’s achievement in these areas. (ex: Writing, critical thinking)
- Sector Level Assessments? Dawn says they are valuable on understanding where we should be with assessment. Whatever we can do to get the sectors to connect what they are doing to the strategic plan. Maybe the sectors can also turn something in the fall. This could also be included in the results to NWCCU. And it shows the support for the planning-assessment continuum.
  - Do we know what sectors are doing this and what aren’t?
  - At the next meeting, we should be thinking about what we want from our non-academic areas. What do we want from the non-academic areas?

Performance Funding:

- This was presented at the recent March BOR meeting. Although the Missoula College and University of Montana numbers are separate, the funding associated isn’t separate. So if one loses, everyone loses.
- Dawn wants everyone to know about the retention number. Performance funding defines retention as ALL new entering undergraduate students. That means we get credit for transfer students. So if we can increase the number of transfer students we get and retain them, we can increase these numbers.
  - But increasing the number of transfer students doesn’t necessarily help us. We have to retain them. The idea is that transfer students have already proven themselves, so we have better odds of retaining them than a typical entering freshman.
  - It’s first year to second year (regardless of what year that is.) If you enter as a sophomore, they measure as a junior.
  - This is very different than the national measurement of retention.
• Performance funding is how you compare to what you’ve done in the past. There are bonus categories for underrepresented and at-risk students. You get extra points for retaining those students.
• Missoula College is also being evaluated on Dual Enrollment numbers (high school), Remedial Success and Credit Accumulation (time to degree checking, full time students 24 credits/year for success)
• Who should be following up on these measures? What are the action steps?
  o It doesn’t look good for us right now in the categories of retention, undergraduate degrees and graduate degrees awarded. Research looks good.
  o Graduate degrees includes certificates. We are trying to increase this number.
• Who is addressing these and keeping an eye on them?
  o Dawn said there is a performance based funding task force. Dawn welcomes the support of the UAAC to help keep this on the radar. Dawn’s office will be doing projections to estimate what will be happening in the future. Scott suggested the president wants Dawn to report back on enrollment projections, which is related.
• Is this extra money?
  o No, it’s not extra. You can lose money. Scott suggested that we need to budget for the idea we won’t always be getting the full 100%.
  o The requirements to get our budgeted money have changed. 92% are given in the old way, where 8% is given based on Performance Funding.
• Tuition Freeze and performance funding are not connected, even though that’s how it was first introduced.
• Nathan will reach out to Shannon O’Brien about Missoula College measurements. And Dawn is going to reach out to Mike to get this on the Cabinet agenda—what are the projections and what are we doing in response?

Planning Committee Form

• We suggest adding a section or question about assessments.
  o How will this initiative be assessed? What are 2 metrics that can be used to measure this? And provide the current value as a baseline.
  o Ongoing assessment is important because a proposal will go through, be assessed and be funded by the base budget. But it shouldn’t stay there, eventually it should go onto a fund.
• Maybe we should add some examples on the Assessment website. Especially for things like Faculty lines:
  o Ex: numbers of students, research productivity, general education
  o Steer away from state appropriations included. It’s very hard to come up with that—it depends what happens at MSU and also our peer institutions (if we grow by 300 and they grow by 500 we lose money). The expectation should be the general fund contribution only.
• What’s the timeline for the Planning Committee? Well, given that we have absolutely no funding, we have plenty of time. We haven’t been able to fund anything for the past two years.
• They are normally due early fall. In the ideal way, the planning is done early fall, then the priorities have been set by late fall and passed onto the Budget Committee. Maybe the implementation committee (the Cabinet) could decide whether or not to go through the cycle this year.

How are we assessing?

• POND funding could be assessed as part of our assessments of past funding. We can talk about this next time.
• Next time we can talk about the HR position we are assessing.
  o We need to focus on outcomes, not processes.
• IT Senate shared the results of the “What do you want to study?”
  o They are making changes this summer to allow people to reprioritize their keywords.
  o This is very valuable analysis because it shows what people are actually searching for.