

Minutes of the AAAC meeting of 30th March 2017
Approved: 27 April 2017

Present: Armstrong, Marsh (Chair), Ortega, Piper, Sanok, Toyama

Absent: Brewster, Epureanu, Kearfott, Lehman, Mashour, Qian, Quidachay-Swan,

Attending: Interim Provost P. Courant, K. Cunningham (Office of Provost)

The meeting was convened at 8:20 A.M.

Preparation for Visit of Provost

Members reviewed the topics they wished to discuss with the provost at this meeting.

The Interim Provost and Ms. Cunningham arrived at 8:35 A.M.

The interim provost answered questions from the committee submitted in advance by Professor Marsh as acting chair.

- Update on search for new Provost:

The interim provost reported that he had no involvement in the search. He expressed his view that the President would be successful in making the appointment in the general time frame that he had laid out.

- Update on the search for a new dean for School of Environment and Sustainability, and how the Graham and Erb institutes will interface with the new school.

The interim provost reported that he is currently considering the candidates who were identified. He will make a decision in due course. The Erb and Graham institutes would continue to operate similarly to now, but probably with more extensive interactions with the new school than had been the case with the old school.

- What has been the impact of the Trump administration's new visa/immigration policies on the number of applications from overseas students to study here?

The interim provost reported that there had been no discernable drop in applications from overseas students, contrary to what had happened in some other institutions. There was concern that there may be a drop in acceptances and that the visa application process may become more complex and restrictive, which could deter students. Prof Sanok expressed concern that students could have difficulty obtaining visas in time for the start of the academic year. The Provost responded that the International Center and Rackham were equipped to guide foreign students through the visa process, but these were matters somewhat outside our control.

- In response to the expansion of undergraduate education in the professional schools, e.g. Public Health, are there plans to correspondingly increase the number of undergraduates admitted to the university?

The interim provost responded that the admissions process was complex and did not directly factor in the flow of undergraduates to professional schools, which generally happened later in their undergraduate careers. Dormitory space is one important constraint on admissions as all first year

students are guaranteed on-campus housing. The Provost's office would work to ensure that Colleges such as LSA, which feared a loss of students/revenue would not be negatively impacted by the development of undergraduate programs in the professional schools.

- DEI initiative – could new funds/resources be made available to better support efforts by faculty and departments to recruit under-represented minority students? (Background: there are various efforts at the departmental level aimed at outreach and recruitment of minority students that are funded on a short-term basis from one-off internal awards or departmental funds. Could successful efforts be supported on a more permanent basis through provost-office funding?)

The interim provost reported that his office does not get directly involved in funding such initiatives. However, Rackham, which is funded through the Provost's office, has a mandate to support such efforts and some funding mechanisms are in place. He suggested that the Dean of Rackham might be sympathetic to supporting successful diversity recruitment efforts on a more permanent basis.

The interim provost then engaged the committee in a discussion of his concerns regarding the mechanism by which the University could continue to innovate and grow. He noted the cut in state appropriations meant loss of \$234M compared with 2002 (the peak of State support). Direct State funding now accounts for between 16 and 5 % of revenue, depending on the basis used. He indicated that mechanisms to offset this decrease such as increasing the fraction of out-of-state students, enrolling more undergraduates and the development of more Masters programs were nearly tapped out. Although tuition might be raised on out-of-state students, such increases tend to work against diversity goals. He pointed to the need to find alternative revenue streams (e.g., increasing donors) and cost savings. Professor Marsh noted that it was easy to start programs, centers and institutes, which consume administrative resources, but much harder to close failing or ineffective centers. Professor Toyama suggested that it might be possible to develop a model where small centers and program shared administrative resources. Professor Marsh noted that the university was involved in running many operations that were tangential to its mission (e.g., car parks, power station). It was not clear that doing so was always the most efficient way to provide this supporting infrastructure.

The interim provost and Ms Cunningham left the meeting at 9.15 A.M.

Continuing Business

Professor Marsh informed the committee of progress made by the sub-committee comprising Professors Marsh, Lehman and Epureanu on developing an appeals process for faculty who were subjected to OIE investigations. Professors Marsh and Ortega noted that there were important deficiencies in the operating procedures used by OIE and due process rights in relation to such investigations. The committee engaged in a general discussion of issues surrounding this topic including possible mechanisms for appeals and insuring due process, while recognizing that complaints may have merit and how OIE investigations could be monitored by SACUA for compliance with SPG while also maintaining confidentiality of the parties involved. Professor Marsh reported that he hoped to have a recommendation for discussion/adoption by the full AAAC in time for the April 27th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 A.M.