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| **METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY of DENVER**  **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  *Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes*  Thursday, February 6, 2020 |

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairwoman of the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) Committee, Elaine Berman, called the ASA Committee meeting to order at approximately 10:18 a.m.

Board of Trustees Present: Trustee Barb Grogan, Trustee Mario Carrera, Trustee Marissa Molina, Trustee Russell Noles, Trustee Elaine Berman, Trustee Kristin Hultquist, Trustee Albus Brooks, and Faculty Trustee Christopher Harder.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Hultquist **moved for approval** of the December 5, 2019, ASA Committee meeting minutes, with a second by Trustee Albus, the **motion was passed.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Approval of Faculty Sabbatical Recommendations**

Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Dr. Bill Henry, presented the list of recommended sabbatical leaves for approval. This professional development opportunity is on a seven-year cycle for faculty in order to allow them to keep current and up-to-speed in their discipline. There are 29 sabbatical applications and all of them are recommended for approval. Every year $500,000 is allocated for sabbaticals; the cost this year is $427,000. Faculty can request funding for extra expenses.

**Approval to Discontinue Emphases within the Master of Professional Accountancy Program**

The Department of Accounting has proposed the discontinuation of the Financial Accounting Emphasis, Internal Audit, Fraud Examination, and Forensic Accounting Emphasis, and the Taxation Emphasis that are housed within the Master of Professional Accountancy program. The emphases were developed with tax people in mind; students are requesting more flexibility. Lower enrolled courses might be archived and course rotations will allow more flexibility for the department.

**Recommend Approval of Proposal to Create a Center for Entrepreneurship**

The Center for Entrepreneurship will promote an entrepreneurial mindset and entrepreneurship across campus and connect with the Denver and Colorado communities. The Center will be housed within the Department of Management and will function within three interconnected pillars: 1) Education and training, 2) business support, and 3) community engagement and events. Dr. Murphy reviewed the categories listed under each pillar. The college is working with Colorado Lending Source to create a $500,000 line of credit for students, faculty, and staff eligible for loans. Students will help with applications, allowing banking students to review and understand the process. Diversity and inclusion are involved in the entire process. The goal is to encourage and support economic development and social mobility for our students and community.

Trustee Noles **moved to recommend** the approval of faculty sabbaticals, discontinuing emphases within the Master of Professional Accountancy program, and the creation of a Center for Entrepreneurship to the Board of Trustees, seconded by Trustee Carrera; **the motion was passed**.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Hart Center Update**

Senator Gary Hart approached Dr. Davidson regarding creating a Center to be an advocate of public service and democracy building. The Hart Center has incorporated as a 501(c)(3) entity. Elaine Berman will be the new chair of the advisory board for the Center along with Hal Haddon, Dan Baer and two additional people. The Board welcomes any ideas and suggestions.

The Center will bring Senate candidates to campus for Fireside Chats, will raise money for senior and student fellows on a national scale, and will stake a space for students in the community to collect tools and resources that they need.

**Health Institute Update**

For every physician there are sixteen other professions in the health industry. MSU Denver cannot meet the demand for nurses because there isn’t the physical ability to educate the number of people that want to be nurses. Funding for a building is in process; the building will have partners such as a clinic that will be open to the public where students can work.

There is an interdisciplinary collaboration among the departments to support students in seeking health careers. Grant money of $7-8 million has been raised for diversity in healthcare fields. Grants provide a model to get private funding to support students and other parts of the university. The Health Institute will support many of our most diverse students.

**Provost Search Update**

Dr. Vicki Golich, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs will be retiring at the end of June 2020. A search firm has been hired and three or four candidates will be coming to campus in the next few weeks. The goal is to announce a new Provost in the spring and have an overlap period for transition. The Board was encouraged to meet with the candidates

**Trustees Discussion: Online Learning Plan**

MSU Denver has expanded its online credential portfolio over the past three years. The online learning experience has been improved through faculty training, enhanced course design, richer content resources, and improved technology tools. The Online Learning Program has seen increases in 1) online-only students, 2) students supplementing their face-to-face experience with online courses, and 3) overall online credit hour production.

The MSU Denver online programs started in 2014-15 and is ready to expand beyond the current seven programs. A seamless interface is needed to keep students. There has been an additional 30,000 additional credit hours over the last five years. There are seven online majors, two undergraduate certificates, Master’s programs in Health Administration and Social Work, and four Graduate-level certificates.

Support for faculty teaching online is provided by the Center for Teaching, Learning and Design (CTLD). The CTLD develops 80 courses a year with a goal of 150 a year. All instructors going through online course design are encouraged to add Open Educational Resources (OER) materials to their courses.

The Trustees discussed OER and where the university would like to end up with online learning. Faculty are involved in developing OER. MSU Denver has a fully branded university website and will start program-specific marketing courses in March. The goal is to provide full program pathways and to remain drawing students from the seven-county area.

The Trustees discussed student fees and access to services available on campus; the campus is investing in advisors/coaches so that the students feel like they digitally belong to the campus. The university will be switching learning platforms next year; having the right technology is vital to success.

Online learning will bring additional students to the university, as well as taking some students out of the classroom and onto online.

**ADJOURNMENT – 11:43 a.m.**