May 8, 2013

Memorandum

To: Dean Leo Kempel

From: University Committee Members (Prepared on its behalf by Srinivasan Tekalur)

Re: 2012-2013 University council Report

This report is a summary of the major topics of discussion during the academic year 2012-2013 at the University Council meetings. Following are highlights of these meetings:

1. It was noted by the Provost that the enrollment in Fall 2012 semester was higher than expected but the university does have sophisticated process and advisory staff on admissions.

2. There were discussions initiated by the Provost on Massive Open Online Courses. It was noted that several universities are posting online versions of their courses, primarily intended as outreach mechanism. MSU is also initiating discussions on what should be done in this regards.

3. MSU is participating in discussions led by a group describing its as Public Flagship Universities. The discussions are focused on how to approach the changing economic/funding scenarios in state/public universities and how to portray its members effectively in their states.

4. It was noted that the current online course management system (ANGEL) will be phased out and discontinued. A new system DESIRE2LEARN will be adopted and will have 2 years lead time.

5. Two motions on University Committee on curriculum were passed.

6. The provost provided a detailed presentation and discussion on student funding issues.

7. The Steering committee proposed an ad-hoc committee to address IT issues on campus, particularly those relating to electronic communications.

8. The President emphasized on the MSU’s Bolder by Design website and strategies to project the website along that direction. The goal for MSU is to be and stay in the top 100 universities in the world.

9. Prof. Youatt provided four short term issues to address Bolder by Design: Closing graduation gap, creating campus-wide strategy for technology, teaching and learning, creating a supportive climate for interdisciplinary research and fostering a healthier campus.

10. Effect of sequester on federal funding scenario at MSU was discussed. At the state level, governor’s plan on providing funding to MSU based on tuition increases was discussed.

11. There were significant discussions on Health Care/Insurance in MSU
   a. Update on the eligibility verification process was provided. At the time of reporting, around 130 people were not eligible for health care benefits.
   b. Implications of Affordable Care Act were discussed. The effect of the Act was projected to have some good benefits and also some challenges. Amongst the several issues highlighted, it was mentioned that the Act will lead to increased cost for MSU and possible increase in cost of health care insurance for all faculty/staff.