SAC Minutes, 9/18/2012

Present: Andrew Conteh, Ruth Lumb, Richard Lahti, Nathan Clarke, Nandita Beruzbuah, Aaron Quanbeck, Joshua Boschee, Henry Chan, Japhet Massessa.

Absent: Nancy Paul, Josey Fogg, Stephen Fox.

1. **Review Charge**

   **“Student Academic Conference Committee”**

   **Advisory to:** Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

   **Membership:** 2 faculty from each academic college. Where possible, 1 each from each half of each college i.e. Business (1) and Industry (1), Social (1) and Natural (1) Sciences, Arts (1) and Humanities (1), Education (1) and Human Services (1). 4 Non-faculty members representing the a variety of groups on campus that can provide valuable input such as the MSUM Foundation, Student Services, CMU, Office of Student Activities. 4 students - one from each college.

   **Description:** Makes recommendations concerning the planning, organization and operation of the annual Student Academic Conference. As appropriate, makes recommendations concerning MSUM participation in any MnSCU undergraduate research conference.”

   **Richard Lahti was confirmed by assent to continue as chair of the committee.**

   4 additional students (1 from each college) and 2 additional Non-faculty members should be sought to bring committee membership up to full. Layne Anderson and the student senate were both contacted on September 18th.

2. **Preview guide. Format - (online only, both online and print, abstracts only print + online preview guide and schedule, etc.)**

   The tradeoff of cost vs. the benefit of getting our word out was discussed.

   One solution to some of our problems would be to break out the preview guide from the abstract list. This would allow us to create the preview guide early – share with marketing, etc. Preview guide for March, abstract list to hand out at the conference (April), schedule to be online/posters only. Check on costs, meet with Deneen Gilmor and Jamie Farmen.

   **Do we want to consider advertising? Paid or free? External or internal? If it is really advertising, businesses would want to know about readership/distribution statistics. Is it really just a donation in disguise? More discussion at next meeting?**

3. **Tentatively, our keynote speaker for this year (15th anniversary) has already been chosen - Ryan Sylvester, B&I.**

   **Contact him to make sure he is still interested and to have him save the date.**
4. **Additional item: Mankato conference.** Should we put in bid to host the conference in coming years? Do we want to host it? What will we get out of it? Better participation for our own students vs. travel to a distant one? Put in a request for money to the Provost and if granted, a proposal to Marilyn Hart showing our interest.

5. **Additional item. Quality vs. Quantity. Minimum standards.** This discussion did not reach conclusion. In the end, who is responsible for enforcing quality standards? While the committee agrees that it is the faculty mentor’s responsibility, if the mentors do not take that responsibility and we enforce quality standards (appropriate IRB, appropriate citations, etc.), we become the “bad guy” and future participation could suffer. Perhaps this discussion will be more fruitful after the provost speaks on October 2nd, 2012.