

## **Minutes from the AALT meeting**

**March 5, 2015**

Those present at the meeting: William Heineman, Sharon McDermot, Mary Farrell, Nancy Julin, Kimberly Burns, Dawna Perez, Charles Phair, Sharon Wolff, Judith Zubrow, Janice Rogers, Carolyn Cohen, Michael Hearn, Grace Young, Donna Bertolino, and Diane Zold-Gross

Dawna Perez reported on a grant opportunity called IPAS that will have a STEM focus and is a capacity building grant and is in its second round of funding. It would be 3 years and \$75,000/year. It would involve advising, early alert and degree planning for students in conjunction with a vendor. The program would give colleges one year to plan and the remaining time to implement. This fits in nicely with the Pathways discussions and this grant could help make progress for this initiative and with programs that have less structured pathways. The money could be used for stipends and there is funding for 10-14 schools.

Sharon McDermot reported on the Spurk renovations. As of now Spring 2016 will be a normal semester and renovations will begin May 2016. Currently, the possibility exists of the entire building going off line rather than half and half as was originally planned. There are obvious pros and cons to this plan. If they shut down the entire building then the state may have money for swing space. Judy Zubrow suggested that people starting to begin the packing and purging process sooner rather than later is a necessity especially since shredding of documents needs to be planned carefully.

Bill Heineman gave a budget update and thanked everyone for their efforts in creating and submitting their budgets. He will be getting back to us about goals because some are not written with measurable results. The state budget is highly uncertain with the new Governor and there will be uncertainty up to the Summer months. We will be asked to cut our budgets and we were asked to take a look again at our budgets and see if there an obvious place to cut. The Early Retirement package was discussed, but it does not apply to the colleges as yet and there will be strict rules as to how it will be implemented. A question about the hiring freeze was raised, but Bill said it did not apply to us, but Lane Glenn still needs to approve the posting and hiring.

Kim Burns brought the group up to speed with MCCC ruling on her proposal and she will be creating a posting for online course development. The enrollment piece of her initiative looks good. She discussed that NECC is an experimental site for Financial Aid which will allow us to try out competency based education and this is expected over the next 2 years. Diane Zold-Gross raised some possible issues of confusion regarding Flexible Registration. Kim addressed those issues.

Shar Wolff discussed the GPS model of advising and that Guided Pathways are going to be piloted in Lawrence for CIS in the Fall. Students will be expected to carry 15-18 credits/semester to complete a program in 2 years and it helps eliminate issues and choices that keep students here longer. Many of our

students take 12 credits, so this will help them graduate at a faster rate. The issue of developmental courses was raised and that those courses are not included in the 2 years. Different models were discussed regarding developmental coursework prior to the students starting here such as taking them in the summer. Also some creative ways of using scheduling in case a student misses an opportunity to take a class or if there are problems so the student won't be behind.

A suggestion was made to make Intersession online only next year so a full 4 weeks of classes could be done and it eliminates the concern about weather. Judy Zubrow suggested a forum so people who taught in the program can share publicly what their experiences were like.