PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – February 20, 2013

ATTENDEES:  Nora Smith
             Donna Negaard
             Jeanne Wilkinson
             Carolyn Plumb
             Betsey Pitts
             Liz Grant
             Jeff Littlefield
             Patricia Lane
             GUEST: Matt Caires, Dean of Students

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am in Reid 415.

Minutes from the February 6, 2013 PC meeting were approved. They have been submitted for posting on the PC web site.

Betsey Pitts reported on the upcoming Professional Employees Social. The event will be held on Wednesday, March 6 in the Leigh Lounge of the SUB from 4 to 6 pm. Hors d’oeuvres, beer and wine will be served. The meeting will be informal, but there will be many opportunities for PEs to share their suggestions and observations during this time.

Matt Caires, Dean of Students, spoke to the group on student affairs policies and procedures, specifically regarding students who threaten others. Matt spoke of several incidents at other universities that many of the members were familiar with, and indicated that more and more, institutions across the nation are finding it necessary to be more proactive when it comes to dealing with these “students of concern.” He was involved with proactive programs while at the University of Wyoming and has since begun implementing similar programs here at MSU.

Matt believes that everyone here at MSU has a responsibility to help students at risk (non-academic), but the Dean of Students (DOS) office is the main clearinghouse for dealing with student behavioral issues. The Students of Concern Team was formed in 2011 as a proactive program to identify and track students at risk. The Behavior Intervention Team is more of a reactive group that responds to immediate incidents. Matt stated that Chief Robert Putzke, Director of University Police, is a very important member of both teams. The DOS office also performs threat assessment analyses which evaluate the seriousness of incidents. Matt indicated that the DOS office is also working on getting their data collection efforts on the computer so more data can be analyzed in a more efficient manner. They are also asking the University Budget Council for a 1.0 FTE to oversee these committees and students of concern in general.

In addition to the new committees recently formed, the conduct protocol has also changed at the DOS office. Instead of having one conduct officer there are now six conduct officers and “hearings” have
been eliminated. This allows the conduct officers to spend more quality time with students. The campus alcohol policy is also being re-evaluated by the President’s Committee on Substance Abuse Prevention.

Matt advised the group that even though it is important to abide by FERPA rules, parents can definitely be advised when a student’s life or safety are involved. Sharing information among university officials does not violate FERPA either. Sharing information with the public is not appropriate, unless it involves the life and safety of the student.

As there was no time for further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Lane, PC Secretary