

UMKC Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

19 November 2013

Plaza Room, Administrative Center, 3 p.m.

Present: Abreu, Bethman, Dilks, Ellinghausen, Flowers, Gardner, Grieco, Igwe, Kilway, McCall, Pennington, Plamann, Rydberg-Cox, Schweitzberger, Solose, Srivastava, Stancel, Sykes Berry, Van de Liefvoort, Van Horn, Ward-Smith, Wyckoff

Excused: Barber, Gerkovich, Kumar, Luppino, McArthur, Petrie, Taylor, White

Absent: O'Brien, Richardson

Guests: Devon Cancilla (Vice Provost for Online and Distance Learning), Bonnie Postlethwaite (Dean of Libraries), Kim McNeley (Associate Vice Provost – University College and Undergraduate Advising), Eric Gropitch (Assistant Dean of Students)

Welcome and Announcements (Peggy Ward-Smith, Chair)

The campus plus or minus grading system is going to be discussed at the next meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved.

Provost/Chancellor Comments

IT requested an endorsement on the policy on Desktop, Laptop, and Portable Device Data Classification System Requirements. There was a request for background

information and questions that could not be answered at Senate. Chair Ward-Smith will invite IT folks to the next meeting to help explain the background of the policy and answer questions.

IFC Report

- 1) Workload policies: Administration would like the Faculty Senate to pass a motion to establish an IFC task force to gather information on workload policies. Each member will gather information and then bring it back to the task force. This is a problem for every campus.
- 2) Healthcare reform: It was determined that UMKC is not required to track hours for graduate students due to the Affordable Care Act.

Associate Provost of Distance and Online Learning (Devon Cancilla)

Libraries are similar to distance learning, they are much different than they were years before. They do creative things with technology and have become a community center. A similar situation is going on with classrooms. The online classroom is much deeper than just practicing content. Students have software available to them online and help services for writing and other issues. The most important thing is to build a community for online students.

Some key elements include engaged faculty/students with presence in classroom and thoughtful interaction, a mix of learning activities, access to library resources, access to help, opportunities to interact, assessments, random opportunities of learning, multiple access to pathways.

There is an increase in demand for online faculty because the amount of students taking online courses is increasing. The course instructor has the vision of the course and he or she works with instructional designers to implement that vision.

The goal is to have 40% of UMKC students taking at least one online course. Currently 26% of UMKC students are taking online courses. The national average is 32%. This indicates that UMKC needs to improve or increase the inventory of online courses.

Currently there is not a breadth of programs and courses available online and so UMKC needs to consider what sort of courses and programs should be put online. Moving online is part of UMKC's strategic plan and it supports the campus mission statement. There will be a conference on January 16, 2013 in the Student Union to launch the new UMKC Online webpage.

Library Report (Bonnie Postlethwaite)

The U-News story depicting the library as no longer buying books was incorrect and the library is still getting new books. The publishing industry is changing dramatically. Journal and subscription services are increasing. Inflation rates have been as high as 15 % per year on services. This has taken a dramatic toll on library budgets everywhere. There is some funding outside of the budget, a number of gift funds given specifically for collections.

Demand has increased for electronic books. Students want electronic access. UMKC has the strategic goal to increase electronic access. In 2013 most of the budget was going toward subscriptions. There were a number of electronic books, which were

part of packages that are subscription based. There were fewer print books, which cost an average of \$56 per title. Last year the library was able to buy 40,000 electronic books for \$10,000, which would have bought approximately 173 print books.

The current strategies include expanding the electronic-preferred policy for journals to include books. The electronic book options allow UMKC to load the records into the catalog and the electronic book is not paid for until it is accessed. Last year the library spent \$60,000 on electronic book uses through this program, which adds 4-5,000 new titles each month to the library collections. If there is enough demand then the electronic book is purchased. This is in comparison to \$160,000 spent on roughly 5,000 print books, only half of which are ever checked out. Print books are still being purchased by the library, but the library will no longer purchase a print copy if it already provides access to the electronic version of the requested title. And following the spirit of access for online and distance education, the library will purchase the electronic version unless there are compelling reasons to purchase the print version instead.

Discussion Regarding Advisor Access to Blackboard (Kim McNeley)

UMKC now has a Blackboard add-on called “Starfish.” This new module facilitates student advising in an online platform already used by many students and faculty, but also provides advisor access to student grades.

The goals are to improve communication, support online access for advisors and faculty, increase advising efficiency, reinforce course expectations and craft an education plan to graduation. There are two key advisor student interactions. First is enrollment advising, which tells the students in which courses they should enroll. The second is in-

progress term advising in which students walk in and have conversations and check on grades.

Starfish has a connect button and is a tool in Pathway for faculty and staff. This is a place for advisors, where they can get detailed information and serve the student population. This will allow advisors to help students learn how to self-monitor. At the current time this program is only being used for undergraduate students.

The next steps are data access limitations, faculty awareness of advisor expectations and system use, faculty input on early alert set-up and faculty awareness of options to support instructor/student communications. The pilot for the program began in Spring 2013 and currently all advisors are using the program for undergraduates on campus.

Upcoming presentations on Starfish: Monday December 2 at 2:30 in the Fine Arts Building room 307, Thursday December 5 at 8:30 in the Fine Arts Building room 308 and also by request.

Student Preferred Name Policy/ Tobacco Free Campus (Eric Grospitch)

The student preferred name policy would allow students to self-identify to the name they would like to show on the instructor's roster. This is important for transgender students who previously had to out themselves as transgender on the first day of class when their birth name was called on the roster. This will also help international students who might prefer to use another name.

This will not change the legal name on financial documents or transcripts. This could change names on diplomas, which could be a given name, family name and then

legal last name. The student's preferred name would also be included on the student's Microsoft Outlook account. This policy should be adopted by UMKC in a couple months, if not sooner.

Tobacco Free Campus

The tobacco free initiative is student led. UMKC is the only UM campus that is not smoke free and tobacco free. In Spring 2012 the student population was surveyed and 67 % said they would support banning smoking. The next step will be to submit a draft of the smoke/tobacco free policy for review. Tobacco free does include electronic cigarettes.

Currently compliance will include engaging people to remind others to stop smoking. If a faculty member smokes then it could be a disciplinary issue because that person would be violating university policy. Faculty will be encouraged to be role models. This will begin rolling out in the Spring 2014 semester.

Updates

Dean and Provost surveys are finished and the response rate was at least 30%.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.