**Minutes**

**UMKC Faculty Senate**

**Meeting of 17 November 2015 3:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Plaza Room, Administrative Center (Volker Campus)**

**Present:** Peggy Ward-Smith, Gerald Wyckoff, Kathleen Kilway, Nathan Oyler, Mike Wacker, Eduardo Abreu, Ida Ayalew, Nancy Stancel, Carol McArthur, Bi-Biotti Youan, Mark Sawkin, Susan Sykes Berry, Della Damon, John Nelson, Roger Pick, Ed Gogol, David Van Horn, Marilyn Taylor, Mark L. Johnson, Linda Mitchell, Dee Anna Hiett, Jacob Marszalek, Michelle Maher, Zach Shemon, Chris Holman, Laurie Ellinghausen, Kathleen Schweitzberger

**Also present:** Beci Edmundson, Ruth Cain, Provost Bichelmeyer

**Absent:** Carolyn Barber, Tarak Srivastava, Deb Chatterjee, Gregory King

**Excused:** Len Dobens, Margaret Brommelsiek, Virginia Blanton

**1. Welcome (Peggy Ward-Smith, Chair)**

 Chairperson Ward-Smith welcomes the senators.

**2. Approval of agenda**

Today’s agenda is approved.

**3. Announcements (10 minutes)**

There are four new members added to the Faculty Grievance Panel: Orisa Igwe from the School of Pharmacy (two-year term), Joseph Genauldi from the Conservatory of Music and Dance (three-year term), Tanya Villalplando Mitchell from the School of Dentistry (two-year term), and Rosa Huang from the School of Medicine (two-year term). The senators vet and approve these four members and they will eventually need to be vetted an approved by the chancellor. There are currently 8 members on the panel, but due to the amount grievances, more people have been added. When a grievance is presented, an experienced member is paired with a non-experienced one. Chairperson Ward-Smith contacted the deans of those academic units that did not have representation on the panel to nominate/identify someone to serve on the panel. This is important because members of the panel cannot sit on a grievance if they belong to the same academic unit.

The Deans’ evaluations are completed and have gone out to the members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to be validated and will be completed over the Thanksgiving holiday break. These reports will be given to the senators at or after the next Faculty Senate meeting on December 1st. The response rates for the deans are as follow: Vaught 39%, White 51%, Postlewaite 68%, and Medeiros 27%. Within the unit, all the evaluation data and unredacted comments will be posted. Since Dean Medeiros does not have a body he reports to, it is suggested that his results could be sent to the Graduate Counsel or he will come to the Faculty Senate.

Senator Roger Pick shares an email from the AUP of the Columbia campus. The Columbia campus is pursuing an initiative and would like opinions from the other campuses. The Columbia campus wants to form a committee to study the elimination of the UM system. The primary purpose in forming the system was to reduce competition. The study will help determine if the services of the system can be best met by a different structure, such as outsourcing which will lead to increased budget savings. Senators can send any additional comments to Senator Roger Pick.

Beci Edmundson gives an update about MyVitae. Instructors and lecturers that are benefit eligible will be added to the system, but whether they will be required to participate in annual evaluations through MyVitae will be decided amongst the academic units. MyVitae is going live Friday, November 20th. The Provost will send an email reminder to all the eligible faculty of the units that have opted to participate at this time. The email states that the profile data (stagnant information) on the site is available for review and information can be entered. The School of Medicine and the College of Arts and Sciences will be delayed and have access when the entire roll-out of the site is complete, but profile data can still be accessed. It is unknown when the roll-out will be completed. Evaluations will not be done through MyVitae this year; the first year is purely for data entry. The comments from the site testers are going to the UM system to be sent to the site mappers who will make modifications.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be an open meeting and Chancellor Morton will discuss the presentation from the Board of Curators retreat.

**4. Provost Update (15 minutes)**

Provost Bichelmeyer shares updates with the senators. Last Friday, the provost was at the System Finance Academy in which she learned about UM system policy and processes. She has met with the Kauffman Foundation as it relates to teacher resident programs. Furthermore, she has met with members of the ROTC and with constituents about the funding of the Center for Economics Education. She has also attended various events, such as *Writers for Readers* at the KC Public Library. Other meetings attended include: e-learning advisory, Career Services, advisors, and UM academic officers.

Provost Bichelmeyer discusses the strategic funding call for proposals which is posted on the Faculty Senate website. UMKC will collect the best ideas and there will be a review committee made up of members of the Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and the University Budget Committee. The criteria in which the committee will evaluate the proposals are also posted on the Faculty Senate website. As stated in the document posted on the website, there will be funding used at the campus level. The funding pool is $1 million.

In light of the recent issues at Columbia, the provost mentions the listening session last week in which 400 people were in attendance. There will be three other listening sessions: one in the evening, one technology mediated at Hospital Hill, and a general session. In February or March 2016, the ideas and plans collected at past listening sessions will be presented. The provost believes that there should be a public statement of values that illustrates the civility and professionalism of the campus and what will be tolerated and defended on campus. She has asked the SGA, Staff Council, Leadership Team, and Faculty Senate to help develop this public statement of values that delineates our culture and what we, as a campus, aspire for our campus to be. The provost wants to create an environment of transparency, civility, communication, and responsiveness. She further states the importance of higher education to embrace all forms of diversity (racial, gender, religious, socioeconomic, etc.) in order to avoid systematic oppression. In the future, Dean Postlewaite will have a workshop about stereotyping.

**5. Assessment, GECC, and UCC (Ruth Cain) (30 minutes)**

Senator Wyckoff and Ruth Cain present on the assessment reports. Senator Wyckoff discusses the trends found in the reports. Some reports did not have substantiating evidence of whether results were met or not, while there were others that were very detailed. Furthermore, Senator Wyckoff notes that faculty feel stressed when having to complete assessments and feel as though that completing reports is an imposition. The GECC recommends that completing assessments should be easier for instructors and more meaningful for the campus as a whole. Currently, assessments for general education courses depend on a rubric that is scored, interpreted, and reported on. The rubrics are not standardized amongst the courses. The point of assessment is to assist instructors in teaching course material and relating to students. Discourse courses are highly normalized when assessed. The discourse professors are often adjunct faculty that put in a lot of work to complete assessments. Creating a standardized rubric for each of the courses will be beneficial in future assessments. Senator Wyckoff states that professors would create an assignment which will be assessed by a study group made up of mostly GECC members against a rubric on a holistic rather than a course level. Also, Senator Wyckoff mentions doing outcome assessments on a three-year cycle.

**6. Committee Reports (IFC, CIE) (15 minutes)**

There was no CIE meeting. The IFC has two action items: two CRRs (CRR 400.010 and CRR 330.015) that need revisions and comments by December 1st. The deadline for the President’s Award for Student Entrepreneur of the Year is January 22nd, 2016. Those nominations can be sent to Jessica Whitehurst. January 21st is the deadline for the President’s Faculty Awards. Moreover, there was a conference call scheduled Tuesday evening at 5:00 pm with the IFC of MU. IFC members discussed how to reach out to specific student groups and strategize. On November 24th, Cooper Drury of the IFC at MU will meet with other IFC members to discuss findings and how to strategize with the other three UM system campuses.

**7. Discussion on SOP changes (Mark Johnson 30 minutes)**

Senator Johnson presents on the SOP changes. His PowerPoint is posted on the Faculty Senate website. The SOP Review Committee is composed of Senators Wyckoff and Johnson and Vice-chair Kilway. They identified several inadequacies or areas where improvements in processes could be made in the current SOPs. Some of these improvements can lead to changes of the language of the Faculty Senate bylaws. Questions of discussion involve:

* 1. Should the Rights and Responsibilities of Senators be clearly defined?
	2. Should the current election of Secretary, Vice-Chair and Chair be restructured to provide/maintain better continuity of leadership in the Executive Committee?
	3. Do the current Standing Committees meet the needs of the Senate?
	4. Should there be an Administrative and Academic Unit Recurring Review that includes a presentation by the Unit Dean or Director to the Senate?
	5. Should there be additional general text included in Article IV, subsection B Academic Grievance hearing Panel, and subsection C. Standing Committee on Research Dishonesty as to Faculty, Students, Staff rights and responsibilities as citizens of UMKC?

Senators share that there is difficulty when a senator or chairperson’s term is over suggesting that there should be staggered terms for senators for continuity purposes. For example, Senators suggest that the chairperson could stathe chairperson would stay on the Senate as the past chair and then there will be an election for chair and chair-elect in order to make the transition seamless and transparent. Senators are asked to send additional SOP commentary to Senator Johnson. Faculty Senate has to present these changes to the All Faculty meeting March 14th,2016 so that they can be voted on.

**8. Discussion of Retiree Medical benefits (20 minutes)**

**a. Feedback on retirement plan changes needed by November 20th.**

Senators vote to postpone making a decision so that they can have time to review the retirement plan changes. Senators should end commentary to the Faculty Senate listserve.

**9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.