

UMKC Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Meeting 16 September 2014, 3:00—5:00 pm

Gillham Park Room, Administrative Center (Volker Campus)

Present: Peggy Ward-Smith, Kathleen Kilway, Buddy Pennington, Burton Dunbar, Laurie Ellinghausen, Viviana Grieco, David Van Horn, Dee Anna Hiatt, Zach Shemon, Roger Pick, Marilyn Taylor, Ed Gogol, Jerry Wyckoff, Gregory King, Yugi Lee, Carolyn Barber, Jacob Marszalek, Eduardo Abreu, Margaret Brommelsiek, Brenda Dingley, Susan Sykes Berry, Jacqueline Hawkins, Connie White

Absent: Nathan Oyler, Christopher Holman, Sean O'Brien, Tarak Srivastava

Excused: Carole McArthur, Mark Johnson, Michael Wacker

Guests: Betsy Rodriguez (UM System Vice President for Human Resources), Jeff Traiger (UMKC Assistant Dean of Students)

Welcome and Announcements

Chair Ward-Smith congratulated Senator Dee Anna Hiatt (Conservatory) on receiving tenure.

There are a number of needs for faculty on campus committees. Six to eight tenured faculty are needed for the pool of faculty who can serve on faculty grievance panels. Senate needs a Senator to serve on the eLearning Committee.

There is also a need to constitute a standing Committee on Research Integrity. According to Senate standard operating procedures, there should be members from each academic unit, including the University Libraries, and three from the College of Arts and Sciences. Members should be full professors, or associate professors if no full professors are available. Members will serve 1-year terms.

Approval of Agenda/ Minutes

Meeting agenda approved. Minutes for September 2, 2014 meeting approved.

Provost/Chancellor Comments

None.

Total Rewards/benefits enrollment

Betsy Rodriguez, UM System Vice President for Human Resources, presented on changes to benefits for 2015 and the upcoming enrollment process. Due to the Affordable Care Act, everyone must enroll and either elect a medical plan or actively waive coverage. This is different than in past years, and is critically important for those university employees who currently are not covered by university medical insurance. If they do not actively opt out, they will be automatically enrolled in the default lowest cost plan.

The biggest change in terms of coverage is that the Columbia campus has a new program that falls between the high-deductible and the PPO plan. This custom plan, tied to the UM-Columbia hospital, will offer lower copays and a lower premium. The plan is not being offered on other campuses.

The university is increasing incentives for wellness. There are two tiers. The first tier will pay an employee \$150 in May 2015. The second tier will pay an employee \$300 in October 2015. Employees must complete the first tier before they can get paid for the second tier. More information is available here:

http://www.umsystem.edu/curators/wellness/2015_wellness_incentive.

Senators brought up concerns that the wellness program is being run through Cerner and that employees will have to log into a Cerner portal and provide health information. Will Cerner sell our personal health information? Betsy answered that Cerner cannot legally do that. The university cannot collect personal health information on its own employees and so must contract with a third party for the program. Cerner was the best financial option for the university.

Benefits enrollment will be October 20-31. Due to the changes related to the Affordable Care Act, numerous communications are going out to employees. It is important that they read the information thoroughly and are prepared to enroll.

CRR Changes for Student Conduct

Jeff Traiger, UMKC Assistant Dean of Students, discussed the system-level process of revising documentation about student conduct. Due to recent events, changes are being made to strengthen Title IX compliance. Revisions are being made to Collected Rules and Regulations related to the student code of conduct (CRR 200.010 and 200.020). System is working out language and processes. President Wolfe has hired consultants to assist. The revision process is moving very quickly, and UMKC has asked that it be slowed down.

Senators expressed concerns that faculty are not involved in the process. Changes are apparently going to be approved by the Board of Curators in early October.

Senator Taylor (Bloch) asked Jeff Traiger if students have been involved in the revisions. He answered no, and Senator Taylor expressed her utter dismay at that.

Vice-Chair Kilway asked if there would be a provision requiring students to read through and sign the student code of conduct when they enroll. This could help faculty deal with disruptive students in the classroom.

Faculty Senate Budget Committee Structure and Chair

There was a question as to whether Tony Luppino could continue to serve as chair of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee now that he is no longer on Faculty Senate. The Senate reviewed its standard operating procedures and agreed that as long as there were two Senators on the committee, Tony could continue as the chair.

Senate unanimously approved Tony Luppino to serve as chair of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee. Senators Buddy Pennington (Libraries) and Roger Pick (Bloch) will serve as members on the committee.

Decision on Finals/Commencement Scheduling

Senate discussed the two options regarding finals/commencement scheduling that were presented at the September 2, 2014 meeting. A number of Senators voiced a preference for option 2 as it retains the Arts & Sciences reading days, which are considered instruction time. Senator Sykes-Berry noted that scheduling in person finals for online courses can be difficult but is generally easier to do during the reading days.

Senate voted unanimously for option 2.

Endorsement of Course Descriptions (vote)

Senate has numerous questions on the definitions for online courses, including how this would impact course fees, how it would be presented to students in the course catalog, what were the differences between blended and hybrid courses, and what assurances did faculty have that these definitions would not be used to limit faculty teaching.

The motion to adopt these definitions was tabled until more information could be provided to Senate.

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. and then moved into a closed meeting.