

Minutes

Faculty Senate

September 6, 2011

Plaza Room, Administrative Center, 3 p.m.

Present: Ebersole, Ward-Smith, McArthur, Stancel, Burnett, Wyckoff, Gardner, Baker, Peng, Mirkin, Thiagarajan, Madison-Cannon, Sherburn, Nilsson, Luppino, Alleman, Hermanns, Krantz, Stanley, Fincham, Bethman, Taylor, McDaniels, Odom, Holt, Carbone, Sykes Berry, Gerkovich

Excused: Plamann, Bloemker

Absent: Durig, Nickel

Guests: Provost Gail Hackett: Peter Witte, Dean of Conservatory of Music and Dance; Nathan Lindsay, Assistant Vice Provost for Assessment; Karen Bame, School of Biological Sciences; Jill Reyes, Human Resources Director and Tom Stroik, College of Arts and Sciences.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Gary Ebersole, who welcomed the new and returning Senators at 3:02 p.m.

Informational Items

- How to get an item on the agenda. Simply contact any member of the Executive Committee, which meets the Monday before each Senate meeting to set the agenda.
- The Board of Curators only approved ½ of what the Senate proposed for calendar changes. Beginning 2013, the Spring semester will start the Tuesday right after the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. However the Curators blocked the proposal for the Spring Break change. The Provost and the Chair are committed are taking this back to BOC, but are waiting for the appointment of a new President.
- In a few weeks, Chair Ebersole will be sending a message to all eligible faculty for volunteers to be on Senate committees.

Approval of Agenda

Senator Wyckoff made the motion to approve the agenda and IFC Rep. McArthur seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Wyckoff made the motion to approve the May 3 Minutes and Senator Baker seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

Provost's Remarks:

Provost Hackett introduced Nathan Lindsay, who provided a handout about Assessment. He stressed what faculty can do to engage in assessment and reminded all that October 1st is the deadline for all programs to have their assessment plans in WEAVE.

The Provost stated that a Second Annual Higher Education Summit took place in late August. It focused this year on moving toward performance funding. Performance means that any new funds from the State would be tied to degree completion and other criteria; core funding will not be included. The participants proposed several statewide measures, such as, credits, affordability, graduations, and degree completions. There is awareness of the lack of comparability across institutions and there is still a lot to talk about and figure out. The State would be using 2013 as the baseline and 2014 would begin the performance funding. The Provost passed out a short version of student success measures that we all could carry with us. She also passed out a Metrics sheet that will be discussed in a future meeting. An update on the MO course re-design efforts that came out of last year's Higher Education Summit, when the Governor asked for corroboration and collaboration, followed. The Math Dept. has completed a proposal which was funded: to re-design college algebra so as to decrease costs and improve student learning outcomes. The course will replace lectures with computer assisted instruction; students will go to a math lab where instructors will be available for on demand individualized instruction. UMSL has also adopted this approach. A computer lab on the 4th floor of Miller Nichols Library will be created for this course. Phase One began this Fall; Phase Two in the Spring will combine the Math lab with an Assessment lab. Biology also has several faculty members developing another proposal.

Provost Hackett announced two new Vice Chancellors. Sharon Lindenbaum is the new Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration and Anne Spenner, the new Vice Chancellor of Marketing and Communications will start in September. Her job is to help all schools with their marketing communication and in developing strategic recruitment/marketing plans.

The Provost presented a proposal to identify a title designation to reward the rare NTT faculty member with very distinguished careers: Distinguished Professor. The Provost asked for feedback. Two questions were raised: do any other UM campuses have this? Has the title been used before? And a suggestion was made to add "professional" to the arenas for recognizing extraordinary achievements of a Distinguished Professor.

"Campus of the Arts" Discussion

Dean Witte explained the lightning fast development of the discussion about the Arts Downtown and a UMKC partnership as it came from the business sector. He cautioned that this is an opportunity, not a mandate. First, he explained that the need to renovate the facilities of the Conservatory began with a price tag of \$98 million. Evaluations have indicated repeatedly that the Conservatory does not meet standards and is not even the best in the UM system. They are in four different buildings and in learning spaces most egregiously out of compliance with their professional standards. But in recent years, even a lower amount of funding was impossible to raise. Yet over the last decade, \$ 6 billion has been invested in downtown KC where there is a renaissance occurring.

The Chamber wants an initiative that is concrete and doable in 3-5 years. The next step will be a feasibility study [paid for with private funds]. There are a lot of questions that need answering and all constituencies will be involved in the process. What space do we need and want? The Senators raised several questions as well. What about living spaces downtown? Will this project include Theater? This will not be a re-organization and no one is being forced to be involved. 91% of Conservatory students are in Professional degree programs, both MA and BA programs. The Cross Roads Arts district is almost adjacent to the Health Sciences campus. Students have access to metro buses with their ID now. Also distance technology is viable.

[FYI-- Kansas City Mayor Sly James is invited to the Faculty Senate meeting October 18th]

Report from the Retirement and Staff Benefits Committee

Karen Bame explained that the Curators approved a mixed plan for new hires, but the specifics have not been decided. This matter has gone back to the standing committee to come up with final recommendations. The committee has been meeting a lot since June 20th and looking at the Defined Contribution side of things. She also wanted to alert the Senators that the Medical Benefit plan will change, due to 15% increase in premiums.

She expects the Board of Curators to vote on the Retirement plan in November. The committee will recommend that current employees should not be allowed to move to the new plan. They also have decided on an Auto Enrollment at 3% of salary, giving the employee the option to reduce that deduction.

Voting Eligibility:

Legal Counsel has re-worded the change in By-Laws that the Faculty approved. There was general dissatisfaction with the re-wording, so this item will be continued until the next meeting. In the meantime, the Executive Committee will confer with Legal to clarify the faculty's intention and to find acceptable language to describe those intentions.

Committee Updates:

Tony Luppino was unanimously re-elected chair of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee. Both the Chair of the Senate and the Chair of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee automatically serve on the University Budget Committee, but Chair Ebersole noted that we also need to fill other faculty positions on the University Budget Committee. Because time was too short for thoughtful nomination at this meeting, that election was moved to the next meeting.

General Education Reform:

Again, due to the late hour, Tom Stroik was no longer in attendance. Senator Wyckoff made a brief comment about the next phase of the task facing the General Oversight Committee but asked that this report be held over to the next Senate meeting. The Committee wants to have Faculty Senate approval for a 30-hour block that will apply campus-wide.

Charge to Cosco on Athletics

Because it is understood that Tony Luppino plans to propose that the UBC study the finances of Athletics as one of its agenda items this semester, it was agreed not to launch a separate initiative at this time, but to see what happens this semester.

Other Committee reports?

Senator Luppino reported that the Faculty Senate Budget Committee has met. The Administrative Issues Committee desired to wait to do the next Dean's evaluations until the new voting eligibility language is approved by the Curators. However, Senator Krantz insisted that the School of Nursing anticipates doing a Dean's evaluation this Fall. There was some discussion about whether the internal SON definition or campus-wide definition of voting faculty would be required for the Dean's Evaluation.