

**The  
U.M.K.C.  
Faculty  
Senate**

# Report

**The Voice of the U.M.K.C. Faculty**

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April 4, 2000

## Urban Mission Task Force

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**What it hopes to accomplish.**

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**Who are they? How were they appointed?**

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**Senate urges better interaction with faculty.**

The Senate met with Bill Eddy, Director of the Task Force, and Associate Director Joe Hughey. They said that the neighborhood fiasco last year give the impression that the University was not involved with the local community in any positive way, but the accreditation study listed 289 different university/community programs ranging from fairly large ones, like the Dental clinic, to small research projects. These programs receive little publicity and are not coordinated, but serve 150,000 to 200,000 people a year. Community leaders were unaware of the resources within the University and rarely turned to us for help. Additionally, faculty members who were eager to work in the community were often not aware of needs.

**You can all vote a second time. ☺**

The Senate ballot went out to the wrong mailing list and included many who were not eligible to vote for Senate officers. Since the ballots were anonymous it was impossible to sort them out and the Senate decided that the election had to be redone.

**Senate approves faculty IT (Information Technology) committee structure.**

See n. 3 for details.

The Urban Mission Task Force was created to both to address the public relations needs of the University and to facilitate faculty/community interaction. An initial planning task force created 7 smaller committees. Eddy and Hughey said they did not

intend to take control over research, or to limit research, or to control hiring. Rather their purpose was supplemental. They did not want to limit funds, but rather get new funds, and perhaps supply seed money to get projects started. They also wanted to bring faculty from diverse units together to work on a project, and they might suggest various modifications of old programs or propose new ones. They might also be able to create some valuable internships. The project is supported by Chancellor Gilliland and is intimately involved with the University of Kansas City Board of Trustees and some other community leaders, so there is a chance that some of their ideas might actually be implemented.

Senators commented that faculty had little information about the Urban Initiative, and thus there was suspicion and little sense of faculty ownership or involvement. We weren't sure how members of the original committee or subsequent committees were appointed (apparently they were appointed by the Provost in

Urban Mission Task Force	
Bill Eddy, Chair Assistant to the Chancellor 308 Admin. Ctr. 235-5925	Tom Johnston Associate Professor Pharmacy KPB 203C 235-1624
Cal Bender Program Coordinator Graduate Studies AC 341 235-5669	Larry Kaptain Professor Conservatory PAC 324 235-2950
Julie Cheslik Associate Professor Law Law 510 235-2547	Michael McCuniff Assistant Professor Dentistry DS 235-2185
Betty Drees Associate Professor Medicine MED M5 233 235-1965	Stephen Morris Professor Biological Science BSB 103 235-2592
Steve Driever Professor Arts & Sciences 4825 Troost, 210 235-2971	Deb O'Bannon Associate Professor Engineering STB 350L 235-1287
Cordelia Esry Asst. Dean Nursing HSB 235-5964	Dianne Smith Assistant Professor Education ED319 235-2458
Joan Gallos Professor of Education Academic Affairs AC 357 235-2841	Helen Spalding Associate Director Libraries MNL 214 235-1558
Joe Hughey Associate Professor Arts & Sciences 5301 Holmes, 108 235-5865	Jerry Stach Assistant Professor Computer Science 4747 Troost, 207 235-2346
Karl Johnson Professor Bloch School of Business & Public Admin. Bloch 305 235-2339	James Waite Student Affairs UC G-6 2350-1081

URBAN MISSION TASK FORCES AND CO-CHAIRS
University of Missouri – Kansas City Urban Mission Project
Culture and Arts Task Force Laurence Kaptain, Professor of Music, UMKC Conservatory Joan Israelite, Executive Director, Metropolitan Arts Council
Science and Technology Task Force David Bodde, UMKC Faculty Chair in Technology and Innovation John Edgar, Partner Bryan Cave Law Firm and Chair of Civic Council Committee of Life Sciences
Health and Human Services Betty Drees, Associate Dean, UMKC School of Medicine Joy Wheeler, Executive Director, First Guard Health Plan of Swope Parkway Health Center
Economic Development and International Business Peter Eaton, UMKC Professor of Economics Peter Levi, President, Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City
Urban Affairs and Urban Planning Joseph Hughey, UMKC Professor of Community Psychology and Asst. Dean of Arts and Sciences David Warm, Executive Director, Mid America Regional Council
Community Education Joan Gallos, UMKC Dean of Education Terry Ward, Assistant to the Chairman, H & R Bloch
Governance and Justice Burnelle Powell, Dean UMKC School of Law Fernando Gaitan, Federal Judge

consultation with the various deans) and members of the task force had not generally reported back to faculty, though there were some exceptions. Interested faculty had been left out of the committee structure, and the ideas of faculty were not sought. Some Senators said that in an administration as hierarchical as the former Lamb/Smelstor regime the committee might have suffered guilt by association, being seen as one more program imposed by the administration.

Both Eddy and Hughey seemed surprised by the assertions of lack of contact with the faculty, and said that they had assumed that faculty was kept informed. They also strongly

denied that there was any attempt on the part of the group to control research. Indeed, Eddy said that he would not be associated with such an effort and would resign if he thought the allegation was true. Instead the program was intended to generate new resources and work in cooperation with existing academic units. It was not supposed to supercede them. They did want to enlarge the definition of scholarship so that community engagement, which is currently often considered service and therefore not much rewarded by the university system, would be considered scholarship. This is what was advocated at the AAHE conference mentioned in an earlier Report. Eddy and Hughey also denied that the UKC Board of Trustees was deciding the research agenda, and said leaders of many community groups were represented in the committees.

Senators said that the rapport between the initiative and the faculty was clearly inadequate. They suggested letters to individual faculty members soliciting ideas, and also recommended that the leadership of the initiative go to faculty meetings in the units to explain the Initiative's process, plans and purpose. Bill Eddy said the Senate was seen as a negative force by some administrators and asked how he could get our cooperation. Senators responded that we were not an academic committee, but a representative committee, and that we were being positive, not negative, in suggesting a much greater level of involvement with the faculty. Some Senators said that when faculty was cut out of the decision making loop it was forced into a negative role. If faculty cooperation and ideas were desired the administration needed to work with faculty. That was elementary democratic theory.

### **Academic IT structure recommended.**

The Senate proposes the following academic IT structure:

- ❖ Each unit should select an IT or academic computing committee in a manner approved by the faculty. These committees would discuss the needs of the units and might meet on an occasional basis with the Director of Information Technology.
- ❖ Each of these computing committees would select one person to sit on an academic computing committee with representation from all units. This committee would meet on a regular basis with the Director of Information Technology.
- ❖ The chair of this computing committee would be chosen by the Senate, and would also serve as the faculty representative on the campus IT committee.

This structure has been discussed with the Director of Information Technology and he finds it acceptable. The Senate will elect its representative at the its April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Each unit should select their own IT committee.

## Odds & Ends

The *Faculty Handbook* is almost ready. It will be on the Senate's web site.... There is still some dispute about the academic calendar, and some Curators apparently think UMKC should go along with Rolla's need to celebrate the day of the Patron Saint of Engineering (St. Patrick). The discussion is continuing, and various reasons why the break should be moved back to the middle of the term were suggested to Randy Pembroke (IFC representative).... Ed Mills, Senate Chair, was absent because of a bad back and Barbara Glesner Fines (Law) chaired the meeting.... The *Senate Report* of the March 21st meeting was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Harris Mirkin,  
Faculty Secretary