

Report

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

September 4, 2001

Volunteers needed

The Faculty Senate has 4 standing committees:

- * Academic Affairs
- * Administrative Issues
- * Budget Committee
- * Faculty Welfare Committee

Volunteers for these committees are needed. You do not need to be a member of the Senate to serve on a Senate Committee. Contact Interim Chair Kathleen Schweitzberger (2227 or Schweitzbergerk@umkc.edu) if you are willing to serve on a committee or if you want more information.

OOOPS....

In the summer *Senate Report* it should have been clearly stated that the Chancellor requested e-mail about Interim Dean candidates. Some faculty (and the Chancellor) felt that constituted adequate consultation. Others disagreed and thought there needed to be a more formal and collegial process. (See the first paragraph, p. 2.)

THE CHANCELLOR'S PRIORITIES: CAMPAIGN TO RAISE \$200 MILLION TO FUND PROJECTS, DEVELOPING A LEGISLATIVE & HOSPITAL HILL STRATEGY, ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Since we now have a Provost, the Chancellor said she will be able to turn her attention more towards off campus goals. About \$400 million in projects had been submitted to her through the deans and the BluePrint process. These had been winnowed down to \$200 million, and she was currently trying to assess their appeal, and see if money could be raised for them. At this point she was reluctant to discuss specifics, but said that since most of them had come up from the divisions through the deans she assumed that faculty were familiar with them. When asked for examples the Chancellor said some of the projects involved endowed chairs. The appeal of these was that money could be leveraged, with some university money matching donor money that could then be used to raise more donor money. Other priorities include working with the University's hospital partners to develop a health science strategy and developing a legislative strategy.

When asked how the faculty could help, the Chancellor said that we could both talk up the good things that were happening and stop spreading false rumors. She stated that an example of a false

rumor was the charge she hadn't consulted with the faculty on the appointment of interim deans. She distributed a table indicating that she had met with the Conservatory, Biology, Education, Medicine and B&PA faculties (often several times) and had specifically invited e-mail comments from most of them. The Chancellor thought that this was a fact, and believed it countered charges of non-consultation. Several Senators said that the *fact* that there were meetings was not disputed, but that faculty did not always consider a meeting to be consultation. It depended on what happened at the meeting. E-mails directed to the Chancellor and read only by her also were not considered consultation by some. [The issues were only discussed briefly at the Senate meeting, but afterwards several Senators said that they thought that the issue of what constituted adequate consultation should be an important agenda item for future Senate meetings.]

Another discussion centered around the appointment of endowed chairs. Some Senators said these appointments had a checkered history at UMKC, with the big donors pulling the strings and unduly influencing appointments. Endowed Chairs could be an asset to the University only if excellent people were recruited. The Chancellor agreed. She assumed the donors would be involved in searches, but appointments would be made by the units. Would deans and faculty be consulted about any strings? "You bet."

Finally, the Chancellor said an enrollment management plan was crucial for the future. Enrollment management involved more than an increase in numbers. We did need the revenue, and that had to be a consideration, but we also needed to attract high quality students.

PROVOST BALLARD: DEAN SEARCH COMMITTEES

The Provost was supposed to be introduced formally, but he is quite informal and had already made comments several times before he was officially on the agenda, so an introduction seemed pointless. He noted that four dean searches are underway,¹ and said searches in Medicine and Education will take place next year. Though he is flexible, and composition has to vary according to school, he generally prefers a search committee of about 10 to 12 people, with a majority of the members from the school. The units suggestions for outside members would be taken seriously. His preference is to have a dean or interim dean from another unit as the chair of a search committee, partly because he wants to get the deans involved in the development of a leadership core.

Ballard believes that search firms are useful, though not essential. They keep track of paperwork and help recruit and identify candidates. It is the search committee, not the search firm that is in charge of the search, though, and they made the decisions on what the search firm should do, who should be called in for interviews and who should be recommended. The people that are shortlisted need to spend several days on campus, meeting with faculty and other constituents. Recommendations should be made to the Provost. He prefers to discuss the candidates with the committee rather than getting a ranked or unranked list. [In a meeting at the College the Provost said that a committee could indicate that a candidate was unacceptable. A statement like that would be taken very seriously, as would be a marked preference -- but no

¹ SICE is already started, and Bloch, SBS and A&S are in their initial stages.

recommendations would be absolutely binding. The Provost said he would prefer to simply discuss the strong and weak points of the candidates with the committees.]

When asked whether he would consult with faculty before a dean was removed, Ballard joked that he didn't expect to do that often, and he didn't really want a "policy" in this area. Sometimes personnel issues precluded a full discussion, and he thought discussions with the faculty and dean prior to the crisis point would be more useful.

There was also a brief discussion of the 45% overhead rate on grants. This was high, and it was hard, sometimes, for junior faculty. It was noted that there were sometimes legal restrictions on reducing the rate. In a discussion Senators said the Graduate School worked with faculty in a variety of different ways.

VICE CHANCELLOR PAT LONG: THE BOOKSTORE & SCHOLARSHIPS

There were complaints about the bookstore: It arbitrarily reduced the number of books ordered, so that classes started with a shortage of books; it ordered outdated editions of books; it didn't get books ordered and didn't tell the professors involved, etc. Some people had good experiences with the bookstore and Roo-Paks, but there seemed to be more problems this year than before.

Pat Long agreed that the problems needed to be addressed. Some arose because the director resigned three weeks before school started, but Long said that she did not know about policies involving across the board reductions, and said it shouldn't happen. A consulting firm has been hired, and if there are suggestions or complaints call Bill Phillips (Asst. V.C. for Student Auxiliary Services) at 1411. He will put you in touch with the consultants or share your comments with them.

Asked about scholarships, since they are needed to attract bright students, Long said that they are increasing and that she is trying to increase them further. Long also said that our SCH (Student Credit Hours) were up 5% this year, and our actual student enrollment was up 3.1%. She announced that Mel Tyler, Director of Admissions, will fill the open position of Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Enrollment Services and Jennifer DeHamers will become Interim Director for Admissions.

ELECTION

Ellen Suni did a great deal of work on the Senate election process over the summer. Our rules aren't entirely clear :-) but we needed an election for a Chair to finish Ed Mills' term. Kathleen Schweitzberger (Vice Chair) is currently interim chair. A nomination ballot will soon go out. There isn't a definitive list of voting faculty easily available, and we will need that before final ballots go out -- especially if there is a contested election.

Respectfully submitted,

Harris Mirkin
Faculty Secretary

