

UMKC Faculty Senate Meeting May 9, 2006

Major Topics

Parking Fees
BAC Work Group
IFC Vacancy

Information Items

Chair Elect Ebersole asked senators for issues to be considered in the up-coming academic year. Some possible topics were mentioned such as revising of the by-laws, the implementation of Peoplesoft, racism on campus, the schedule for finals week and grading, and grading policies.

Graduate Fellowships – it was noted that there are problems with how graduate fellowships are currently being awarded. Students whose advisors are on the selection committee are getting a higher number of the awards therefore the issue of merit selection needs discussion and examination. Many scholarships are awarded without sufficient faculty input.

A letter from Provost Bubacz to Chair Elect Ebersole was shared. The letter asked the Senate to address the issue of racism in the classroom. The Senate will address this issue in the fall.

Parking Fees

Asst. Vice Chancellor Rick Anderson spoke to the Senate regarding the parking fees structure. The differential rates proposal endorsed by Staff Assembly and Faculty Senate was discussed. The Executive Cabinet has also looked at the proposal and has concerns about it because of tax implications in that differential rates allow some employees a greater tax benefit, and because it differentiates a rate for one benefit which applies to all employees rather than all benefits. Senators did not feel that these should be obstacles to having differential rates structure which the Senate believes is fairer to lower paid employees. Senators do not feel that implementing this proposal should be a problem and could and should be done expeditiously. Asst. Vice chancellor Anderson said that the Executive Cabinet does not want to act on the differential fees this fall because they are considering some other benefits issues that involve staff including paid leave policies. The possibility of differentiated parking based on location can be considered but it will create problems for many employees who need to move around campus. Other variations of the differential parking fee structure are being looked at but the Asst. Vice Chancellor pointed out that the administration of such a structure is somewhat complicated. Whatever system is used it must be income neutral for the parking funding. A senator

pointed out that this is an issue of shared governance. A senator suggested that after some designated period of service by an employee, a parking fee might be lowered. A Senator also asked if Emeritus status parking privileges could be considered.

A senator asked about the change in enforcement of excusing faculty parking in metered spots when necessary. Asst. Vice Chancellor Anderson responded that the Parking Committee is considering this.

A senator asked about the position of Asst. Vice Chancellor for University Services. Parris Saunders is currently in that position for an interim period. The Asst. Vice chancellor responded that he was not sure what the arrangement was between the offices of Student Affairs and Administration and Finance.

BAC Work Group

Chair Waterborg, Chair Elect Ebersole and Senator Luppino are trying to get a commitment from Chancellor Bailey for the continued existence of the large Budget Advisory Committee while allowing the small budget model review sub-committee to do most of the "heavy lifting." The Chancellor has not made that commitment yet. The Provost has asked the deans, the Faculty Senate, and other groups as well to provide members for that committee. The Senate wishes to see the large Budget Advisory Committee to continue with the smaller sub-committee doing major work. The Senate proposes that Senators Luppino, Green and Ebersole remain on the full Budget Advisory Committee. The Senate does not agree that the full Budget Advisory Committee should be eliminated. Senator Luppino indicated that he'd like to arrange a meeting with the Chancellor and Provost in same room to talk about this issue, but schedules have not yet allowed that. The sub-committee has been doing some serious work. At the Senate meeting of 4-18-06 we thought Chancellor Bailey had agreed that the full BAC would stay in place to react and help sub-committee. On 4-19-06 a memo was sent to the Chancellor by Chair Elect Ebersole, Chair Waterborg, and Senator Luppino to confirm this agreement. Subsequently the Provost sent a memo indicating some different understandings including the eliminating of the full BAC.

The Senate voted to send the three Senators, Ebersole, Green, and Luppino to the small budget models review working group. The vote was unanimous, and it was made clear that the vote would apply whether the working group is a sub-committee of the BAC or a new committee.

Chair Elect Ebersole urged all Senators to encourage faculty to become involved in budget matters in their units and to become informed about budget matters campus wide.

Senator Luppino urged Chair Waterborg and Chair Elect Ebersole to continue to press Chancellor Bailey and Provost Bubacz to keep the full Budget Advisory Committee in place.

Discussion on IFC Vacancy per August 2006

Chair Elect Ebersole's position will become vacant in fall. There is some difference in the reading of the by-laws. Some see the most recent election as the one in which the second vote getter takes the position. Some see the by-laws as reading that the election to be used to determine who takes the seat is the one in which the person vacating the position was elected. A Senator commented that all the whole by-laws need revision. This particular section is difficult because both interpretations are reasonable because the language in the by-laws is unclear. A Senator suggested that we have an election including the candidates from both of the previous elections. This would make the candidates Phil Olson and Jakob Waterborg. The Senators agreed that an election needs to be held. The by-laws should be interpreted such that broad representation is the goal and a new election is in keeping with that.

A Senator moved that this position be filled by a campus wide election in the fall. The motion carried unanimously. An election will be held in the fall and the IFC position should be explained fully on the ballot. Chair Waterborg suggested that he attend the meeting in August. That will be determined later.

The point was made that we need to encourage our colleagues to get involved in campus governance. A Senator pointed out that professors are increasingly busy and it affects their willingness to serve. Some faculty are not willing to participate in all campus elections where vote counts are reported and it was suggested that some campus level positions could be appointed by senate instead.

The Chair reminded senators that there are current campus level positions need to be filled by academic units.

A Senator complimented the Chair on the good job he has done the past year.

It was determined that the Executive Committee will determine if meetings need to be called over the summer.

Adjournment

Senators Present: Waterborg, Loncar, Stancel, Ebersole, Cole, Driever, Potts, Pennington, Fieldman, Rice, Mardikes, Luppino, Hood, Knopp, Jones, Gardner, Honigberg, Joy, Foxworth, Bame, Igwe, Mitchell

Excused: Green, Murphy, Durig,