

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2009**  
**Plaza room, Administration Center, 3-5pm**

**Present:** Ebersole, Fieldman, McArthur, Stancel, Holsinger, Price, Honigberg, Gardner, Taylor, Hopkins, Ziskin, Potts, Beard, Davies, Knopp, Beard, Whitt, Butner, George, Downs, Luppino, Sykes-Berry, Alleman, Yang, Stanley, Ward-Smith, Gutheil, Schubert, Madison, Humrichouser, Gonzalez, Foxworth, Madison-Cannon

**Visitors :** MacQuarrie, Simons

Excused: Stanley, and Gutheil.

1. Welcome-3.00pm call to order, Chair Ebersole.
2. Welcome to new Senator Juan Carlos Gonzalez from the School of Education.

**Information items:**

3. Chair Ebersole to attend the Missouri State Legislative day in Jefferson City on February 9/10 2009. The Executive Committee had debated the cost and benefits of Chair Ebersole attending.
4. Financial report for the Senate is pending.
  - a. Request for additional agenda items...none offered.
  - b. Agenda approved; moved by Senator Marken and seconded by Senator Whitt.
  - c. Senate minutes from December 6<sup>th</sup> approved (unanimous), moved by Senator Whitt and seconded by Jeff Price.

**5. Chair Ebersole:**

Governor will deliver his State of the State address on the 27th January and lay out his budget. The projected revenue will be smaller with a shortfall estimates as high as \$1.2 billion in 2010, which means the State has some serious challenges. Since education is the largest discretionary fund, higher education is extremely vulnerable and likely to take a hit. A 15% cut would result in State funding levels experienced in the 1990s.

**6. Provost Hackett report**

- a. Campus P & T committee will meet this week with respect to 45 candidates in either of these two categories. Provost Hackett stressed that final decisions needed to be earlier and be assessed in an on-going basis. Last yr they finished in March. The Chancellor makes the final decisions. This yr P and T will be assessed together.
- b. There has been some confusion regarding the edicts received from the UM system regarding the travel policy and the financial crisis, but guidelines will be out soon. Obviously, attending a conference in an administrative capacity would be seen differently to a faculty member attending to present a paper based on research. Chair Ebersole added that each Campus would be given some autonomy in this decision.

- c. She conveyed that Bill Morgan in ORS would be reviewing faculty research grants soon and that those for travel had not been decided yet.

#### **7. Cindy Pemberton, Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs.**

Vice Provost Cindy Pemberton presented a proposal to the Senate outlining the establishment of an Undergraduate Council or undergrad curriculum committee for consideration. The document outlined a plan to obtain broad representation across Campus, with the Registrar & Pemberton included as ex officio (non-voting) members. The committee would be expected to be very active and report to the Senate and Provost. A lively discussion ensued regarding clarification of the roles of the current curriculum committees in the units and the planned new committee. The Undergraduate Council would have an oversight role to avoid duplication of courses and encourage co-operation. It would be concerned with the “big picture” and it is important not to get bogged down in minutia or it may lose its potential for innovation. It was agreed to add a statement to this effect to the document. The role would be to review changes in existing programs in a general way to avoid course overlap or redundancy and to review new programs. It would NOT be to review existing programs. It is to encourage dialogue and is not a result of the new budget model. One Senator raised the question of the flexibility of the committee and the need for a way to handle a potential “appeal or disagreement”. Dr Pemberton elaborated that there had been an attempt to parallel the structure of the Undergraduate Council in line with the Graduate Council and added that the committee would be expected develop its own standard operating procedures. Some other minor changes in wording of the document were recommended by several Senators in the interest of clarity. Chair Ebersole suggested that some members of the unit curriculum committees should also serve on the broader Campus wide undergraduate council to facilitate communication between them. The discussion concluded with an agreement to revise the document for the next meeting.

#### **8. Questions to Provost Hackett:**

Senator Taylor requested an update on the Dean Searches. Provost Hackett said they had a couple of finalists with respect to the Bloch School; there were 8 semi-finalists for the post of Dean of Dentistry with airport interviews planned for the 28-29<sup>th</sup> January with a decision planned for the end of February. The search for a Dean of the School of Education is moving more slowly and there is still a lot of work to do although a couple of potential candidates have been identified. Chair Ebersole added that there were many good candidates for the Bloch School, but 4 of them were clearly superior.

Senator Fieldman requested some clarification of the exception to the hiring freeze process. Provost Hackett said that most of the first wave of requests had been approved since many of these candidates had already had offers. Those funded fully off a grant were exempt. Most exemptions so far were the easy ones to sort out. There is still the difficult group and Provost Hackett added that it was difficult to determine what is being withheld at the level of the Units. Some Units

wanted everything they could get, while others were more cautious and responsive to the financial climate. There have been no across the boards yet. Chair Ebersole reminded that the goal is to protect regular faculty positions.

9. **Naming of the Health Science Campus:** good progress with few in opposition to the renaming. Trend towards a preference of having a brief title.
10. **Michael Crow visit from ASU:** generally positive comments. Provost Hackett said Crow is a visionary at a high level.
11. **Grievance process:** the Board of Curators has approved the piloting of a new process as of January 1<sup>st</sup> and, thus, a panel was required to serve on this. So far nominations consisted of Dick Murphy, Peggy Ward-Smith and Nancy Stancel. Grievances files would be adjudicated by the panel within 90 days. The faculty in Columbia, who tested a similar process, felt that a representative of the Provost (in our case Ron MacQuarrie) needed to be included, since the Dean was often involved in these grievances and faculty alone did not have sufficient clout. The process will be piloted for 3 years. There is already a formal grievance pending. It was moved and approved unanimously that these 3 individuals be approved for two-year terms.
12. **Ombudsperson:** The Executive Committee has been seeking candidates and will be bringing recommendations for this position. Chair Ebersole stated that Emeritus Professors were desirable and had more traction because they were less politically motivated.
13. **Parking and Transport Task Force:** a proposal was provided regarding this ad hoc committee which would be widely represented and with ex-officios. Nominations of the following occurred: Sugyap Kim from Environmental Studies was nominated by Senator Davies. Leah Stanley and Keith Benjamin (Conservatory) were also nominated. For now the replacement of the Oak Street parking structure is on hold, but the future needs of the campus need to be determined within the confines of the strategic plan. Further action on this awaits an agreement by the nominees to serve.
14. **Budget:** a brief update was provided by Senator Luppino. The University Budget Committee was waiting to learn the extent of the budget cuts, but has been reviewing various hypothetical scenarios. Tony stated that the sooner we address the issue the less will be the impact further down the road.
15. **Administrative Issues committee:** Sue Sykes Berry has put out a call for assistance to locate the document declaring the Dean Review cycle periods since the one on the web site was dated 1997. There were several comments which alluded to the fact that the time between reviews for Deans was too long and not meaningful. This process needs to be revisited soon.
16. **Elections for committees:** The need was stressed to populate all campus-wide committees through elections early in the Spring.

**Chair Ebersole adjourned the meeting at 4.55pm.**