

Faculty Senate Minutes
Tuesday February 17th, 2009
Plaza room, Administration Center, 3-5pm

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

Visitors: Sarah Morris and web site team

Excused: Stanley, Humrichouser

Absent: Madison-Cannon

Welcome-3.05pm call to order, Chair Ebersole.

Information items:

- a) Chair Ebersole attended the MAFS Legislative Day in Jeff City & met with legislators regarding the budget and impact on Higher Education. Among those with whom meetings occurred were Rep Beth Lowe (UMKC Grad), Jason Kander, and Rep Chris Mollendorf, who proved to be the most interesting since he sits on the Appropriations Committee and on the Higher Education Committee. Chair Ebersole conveyed the difficulty inherent with the instability and unpredictability of funding. A change in the annual cycle of funding to a biannual one was discussed. Members were encouraged to write the representatives in support of this option.
- b) Request for a representative from each unit for the Undergraduate Council. Individuals may be elected by Units or nominations will be accepted by Chair Ebersole and Secretary McArthur.
- c) President Forsee will be here on Thursday 19th February at 1.30pm in the Plaza room and at 3.30pm in the Medical School. Nancy Stancel, Alex Holsinger, and Gary Ebersole will be at the IFC meeting before this, so they may have updated information beforehand.

Agenda: accepted with no additions and passed unanimously.

Previous Minutes: February 3, 09 Senate meeting minutes were accepted and passed unanimously (Ziskin/Foxworth).

Chancellor Morton report:

Chancellor Morton provided an update and referred to the handout he provided at the last meeting and the approach used by President Forsee to evaluate operating expenses across the system. He reminded all that he had said last time the numbers do not look good and after discussions with the Curators it was clear that there

needed to be additional cuts to be able to make the required savings. However, on a slightly less negative note, he pointed out that when you consider where we were a year ago, in terms of revenue, we are actually 6% ahead of where we were at the same time and may end the financial year \$1.8 million better than expected.. He also reminded us that even a small increase in enrollment of 1% could be expected to increase revenues by \$700-800,000. Thus, there is a great interest in developing a better and well co-ordinated marketing strategy. Two Senators commented on \$28 million in scholarships and “discounts” we have on the books, and the need to manage this very large number and make sure these were appropriate. Another remarked that there are 21 types of discount and it requires a significant effort to keep track of all these. Chancellor Morton agreed and reminded all that we looking critically at revenue streams with a view to enhancement and not just cutting costs. Provost Hackett is working hard with her team on Summer School marketing for example. He added that on the expense side of the ledger we incur about \$200 million of which 75% goes in salaries/wages. A review of our efforts so far of the hiring freeze these past 2 months shows that we hired 23, 13 of which were prior commitments. Only 8/13 were approved through the exception process and that Schools had been diligent in holding back requests for exemptions. Chancellor Morton explained that he had showed the BOC how, if the one time expenses incurred by the Medical School, were removed and progress over the past 2 months was reconsidered, the spending rate minus the one-time charges suggest we would come in under the budget. He re-emphasized that we need to track the expenditures in a “ data room” that had been established in response to the crisis. The future sophistication of this innovation was briefly discussed and that there is a plan to have the budget monitored on the web-site for all to view. Mary Lou Hines and her team were working hard on this creation and Chancellor Morton showed his pleasure with regard to progress so far. Senator Price inquired whether we could run the new budget model considering anticipated revenues to see where we expect to be financially. Provost Hackett said she hoped the new model would be completed soon so this could be undertaken. Senator Luppino remarked about the lack of clarity regarding tuition directives and that he would have a conference with Karen Wilkerson next week to clarify some of these issues. Provost Hackett stated that enrollment is definitely up, but we must also develop a strategy to increase retention. Senator Ziskin cautioned in regard to coming down too aggressively on “dead beat fees” owed by students who sometimes had extenuating circumstances which impacted their abilities to pay. Provost Hackett said this was accounted for and a significant effort was given to counseling students with financial difficulties. Chancellor Morton stated that Mel Tyler goes to a significant effort to resolve these problems and develop payment plans to assist with retention.

Senator Krause pointed out that we are not hiring currently and have restricted travel. This leads to accrued funds but wondered where these funds are being held. She also pointed out that this could not go on indefinitely without impacting programs. Chancellor Morton reminded everyone that there are basically 3 ways to get at this kind of problem 1) the rescission of 5%; 2) exercise 15, 20 or 25% reduction in State support for the next year. (Even though the Governor wants to

keep funding steady for Higher Education, this is not a done deal yet and ultimately it may not pass the MO State legislature); and 3) \$20 million in commitments across the board. Even if we get by without big cuts in State appropriations, saving now will help us to navigate the rough waters expected down stream. i.e. Make healthy now to get through the expected storms.

There were several remarks about the liveliness of the UMKC rumor mill which perpetuates inaccurate information. Senator Luppino requested that we trust him regarding monitoring of expenses, but that he does rely on obtaining accurate information. With respect to the retirement annuity, the value of the fund fell from \$3 billion in late summer to \$2.1 billion in January, which we need to compensate for.

Senator Whitt asked if it was accurate that Chancellor Morton has his Country club membership paid for. Chancellor Morton said he did not have a country club membership but pointed out that to raise funds, it is appropriate and a small cost to take someone to lunch. This is especially true when UMKC receives a gift of \$8.2 million to the Dental School, \$1 million for the IUE, \$350,000 from Kellogg, or \$200,000 for the Conservatory. He also added that he had used some of his personal funds, but that this could not go on forever unchecked. Senator Price interjected that hostility in regard to the budget and related issues was actually directed at President Forsee and he should be made aware of this. Provost Hackett said she had already conveyed this sentiment to President Forsee. Senator Dan Hopkins asked if this message, that proper prior consultation with faculty is essential in our system of governance, was getting down to the Deans and this was confirmed by Provost Hackett. This was followed by a short discussion of the role of continuing education as a money maker and strategic tool.

Senator Honigburg said that the spread sheets we received indicated increased expenditures in facilities renovations and that perhaps we should review these. Chancellor Morton drew attention to the failing wall at the Bloch school, but also to the fact that we have some \$900 million in deferred maintenance. It would be prudent to consider ways we can increase revenues rather than reducing expenses to focus on savings. Basically, Chancellor Morton felt we should examine what we do carefully. Chair Ebersole added that according to Rick Anderson, job orders were down which would lead to lay-offs in time. Senator Honigburg added that there should be oversight of these jobs.

There was a short discussion considering the pros and cons of having special courses in the summer, how this might influence the Fall semester and the issue of whether we have students who need to catch up or accelerate their progress. Chair Ebersole stated that we have already been doing this and it appears that we are not "stealing students" from the Fall. There was agreement that special courses should be offered during the summer and that this should be a co-ordinated effort.

There was further discussion and questions regarding the budget initiated by Senator Wang who asked about the % lost in the retirement fund. Chair Ebersole

said we would be receiving a copy of the presentation by Mike Padden. Senator Wang followed with a question regarding the possibility of increased contributions from those who earned higher salaries and asked if this issue was discussed. Chair Ebersole related that this was a “done deal” when they arrived at the meeting but that in the future they hoped to do better by having participation on the HR committee involved. He added that the power to furlough applied until June 30, 09. Senator Shubert asked if the power could be extended over a longer period and it appeared this required another order. Chair Ebersole reminded everyone that it is not a good idea to have this power reside with a single individual. Senator Fieldman remarked that people are scared and need clarification.

Chair Ebersole requested to change the order of the agenda so the issue of improved communication could be discussed. There were no objections.

UMKC Web site

Sarah Morris and her team described their approach and research into developing a new home page for the web site and campus wide improvements. This involved focus groups with prospective students, industry papers and competitors. This has been vetted by the Deans and VCs and approved but requested faculty input. She presented and explained the 2 different designs which Provost Hackett remarked were not specific but models of what we might have in principal. There were many questions around the issue of getting information about classes simply and making the system user-friendly. Senator Downs made the important point that if we own it we should also be able to fix it when it has problems. Senator Schubert pointed to some designs (loss of real estate) which resulted in lost or wasted space. The Provost said there is a user group for anyone wishing to join and there is a need for feed-back to morrissl@umkc.edu. Cory Beard asked some technical questions about the language used, the web tools and how it might be edited readily.

Academic Issues Committee

Senator Holsinger explained the process of how a student could apply to have a semester of grades removed from consideration in the GPA calculation. Single courses can not be removed, only the entire semester. Senator Honigburg asked who made the decision and Senator Marken asked about the criteria. Holsinger said the language was vague and that he would ask AIC to revise the document. Chair Ebersole requested that this be sent out for all to review. Senator Downs asked what disclosure was made to the outside world and Senator Whitt asked about a time limit or statute of limitations. Senator Wang felt it was generous and others conveyed that it was not abused but still required some further structure and asked if there were barriers. A request was made for information the relation between the AIC and AAC.

Nomination Committee

Senator Stancel presented this short proposal describing the need and role for this committee to ensure Senate standing committees were populated. Senator

Honigburg suggested that there be a rep from each unit. Jeff Price wondered if the charge was broad enough. It was decided to bring this item back to the senate in March and get it approved ASAP

Chair Ebersole adjourned the meeting at 5.05pm.