Draft Minutes: Faculty Senate, 21 August 2012

**Present:** Ebersole; Ward-Smith; McArthur; Stancel; Fieldman; Burnett; Wyckoff; Plamann; Taylor; Ellinghausen; Dilks; Richardson; Solose; Morehouse; McCall; Butner; Luppino; Sykes-Berry; Pennington; Gerkovich; Hermanns; Krantz; Flowers; Santosh. Excused: Holder; Bethman. Absent: Lyne; Van de Liefvoort; Petrie; Nickel; O’Brien; Igwe.

Additions to agenda: Jenea Oliver will make a brief presentation regarding progress on the capital campaign and the upcoming campus(es)-wide service day.

Approval of Minutes of 10 June special meeting: Wycoff moves, Krantz seconds. All in favor with no changes.

Information items:

Marilyn Taylor (Bloch) notes the death of Lanny Solomon, multi-faceted treasure from the Bloch School; and announces plans for a memorial fellowship.

As of 16 July, UMKC librarians have faculty status. Thanks to Senator Sue Sykes Berry for spearheading that effort.

Ed Gogol (SBS), former Senator, is the new Senate representative on the Parking Committee.

As per Senate bylaws, Deans’ Evaluations will take place in October: faculties, please be ready!

Standing Senate committees need to be populated; some have recently been inactive. Membership is not limited to Senators, but is open to all (voting?) faculty. Senate Chair Ebersole will broadcast a call soon.

Brief presentation on UMKC Foundation: Jenea Oliver

Capital campaign, with goal of $250 million, is ongoing; to date $127 million has been raised. As is known, the funds will be for scholarships and for priorities set by Deans and other campus leaders. Regarding faculty and staff, the goal is to engage 45 percent of that population in giving; the monetary goal is $5 million dollars, of which something over 50% -- $2.7 million – has been raised. Despite lack of raises for faculty, we are encouraged to give for the sake of our students. In addition, a Faculty-Staff service day has been announced for 16 September This is a sanctioned event; hourly employees do not need to use vacation time. 2-hour volunteer shifts are open for sign-up.

The Provost gave brief reports on a number of items:

The Student Success Center is open (on time) and “beautiful” – for our students, and very impressive. Mel Tyler (\_\_\_) had been giving tours to campus visitors; contact him or Ken McNeely for a tour for faculty, or simply step in. The renovations to Pearson Auditorium are not yet complete, but will be by October. Chair Ebersole asks about the Center’s name, part of which has already been revealed in the building’s signage; the Provost notes that donor’s identity is being withheld pending formal announcement.

The new Cherry Street parking structure is complete, on time and on budget, offering many more spaces than were previously available.

The Interactive Learning Center as the first phase of the MNL addition is up and running; the remainder of the fourth-floor renovations will be finished in a year. The Center is presently being used for the math department’s redesigned Algebra I course; reports are that it is being very successful. The savings thus realized for the math dept. will be invested in further course redesign for use in the Center. The Center is only available for University courses, though the software is available upon request, through the Math Dept. faculty.

To questions from the floor, the Provost clarifies that still to come is a 900-seat auditorium-type classroom that can readily be reconfigured for smaller classes. She stresses that the university is striving for a balance between the large classes that will be available with the new space and the focused, more individualized teaching that distinguishes UMKC from others.

Campus of the Arts project is progressing quietly; talks continue with private donors.

New Faculty Orientation day fun and well-received.

Provost offers that a new, full-time position as director of on-line learning is being considered. The position would be in support of faculty efforts.

51st and Oak to be location for new grocery (Whole Foods) above which four stories of upscale apartments with parking. Annex will be torn down, historic Women’s Auxiliary building will be moved southwest of where it currently stands. Not a UMKC investment per se; we will rent space for Counseling Center and Health Services.

Re the discussion of changing UMKC’s name, the Chancellor will hold a town hall on each campus; SGA will hold six. Following these, a survey will be sent out to collect responses. This is expected to unfold over the fall semester; there is no strict timeline in place. If the change moves ahead, it will be incorporated gradually; we will use up old letterhead, etc. rather than replace immediately.

Discussion of University of Missouri Press’ closure led by Chair Ebersole. It was announced at a curator’s meeting on 24 May and later that day decision communicated to faculty leaders. Frugality, in the form of savings of the annual $400K subsidy, given as reason. Faculty was not involved in the decision-making and even a large part of the faculty at Columbia is opposed to the closing.

Ebersole further notes that at a July meeting of the curators at which he was also present, discussion of the press closing was closely followed by curators’ approval of a $130 million package for renovation of UM Columbia’s football stadium, $100 million of which is bond funding. There is impact on UMKC, in that further borrowing will be more expensive with that much debt already assumed. More directly, it raises the issue of fundamental priorities regarding the university’s primary academic missions. Finally, as of 21 August, it had been decided to reconfigure the Press and to house and fund it through the Columbia campus, not the system. Ebersole suggests that the effect is have the Press belong to Columbia, in that it will be run and controlled on that campus.

Ebersole proposes a Sense-of-the-Senate resolution to express concern over the closing of the Press, and to ask the President to assure that all the four campuses will be involved in the design and management of the Press. The resolution:

"The UMKC Faculty Senate contends that the University Press is an essential component of the research mission of the University of Missouri System and all of its campuses. As such we are disappointed with the decision to close it down and urge the UM President and all involved parties to postpone the close of the press and to have faculty involvement from all campuses in all future decisions and discussions including the press. "

The resolution was passed with 24 votes to approve, 1 dissent, and 2 absentions.

Brief discussion of a petition being distributed through the web site Change.org in favor of removing the Chik-Fil-A restaurant in the student union because of the strong and public anti same-sex marriage sentiment expressed by its founder. Its wording makes reference to the campus’s public position regarding discrimination of all sorts. The petition is under no formal sponsorship of which we are aware, and thus no action taken.

Most remaining time given over to Sen. Gerry Wyckoff (College) on the work of the Gen Ed committee.

The committee met weekly all summer; Senator Steve Krantz (Nursing) acknowledged for his leadership.

The committee is currently defining student learning outcomes and devising model syllabi. Every proposed GenEd course has to go through an approval process, which involves filling out an approval form and presenting an assessment plan.

The committee has come up with definitions for each type of course. All must have an assessment mechanism and meet certain standards, for instance, being taught on a regular basis. There has to be room for “drift” in the syllabus allowing adjustments to be made over time. Anchor courses do not have to be cross-listed. All such information is part of the course definitions.

The committee recommends to the Faculty Senate that the GenEd committee have two standing subcommittees, one for the discourse and one for the anchor/platform portions of course design. Concrete proposals for these subcommittees are forthcoming.

The committee reviewed all potential platform and anchor courses currently available; the resulting compilation ran to almost 140 pages. Platform courses are the kind of courses that are already being taught; the structure of the course need not change a great deal but there must be an assessment plan in place. The list of the courses will be made available.

November 15th is the deadline for faculty to make initial proposals to the GenEd committee; this means that any such course must already have gone through the necessary approvals through unit/departmental curriculum committees. Full implementation is scheduled for August 2013.

Sen. Wyckoff also requested a budget, proposed at $50,000, to be used for discourse courses, to help boot up the anchor courses, and for FaCET. Chair Ebersole mentioned that there are four members from the Faculty Senate on the University Budget Committee who can advocate the allotment of a budget to GenEd.

Discussion concluded with the statement that the teaching of Gen Ed courses must be valued, rewarded in how people are treated in the P&T process across the campus and that the value be reflected in salary as well.

Brief mention was made of Missouri Amendment 2, which was overwhelmingly passed in August. In its language is this:

“No student shall be compelled to perform any academic activities that violate his religious beliefs and no student should be negatively credited based on their religious belief.”

As educators, it is clear that there could be significant consequences in our classrooms.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for 4 September.