UMKC Faculty Senate

Meeting of 27 November 2012, revised

DRAFT Minutes

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

**Information items**: Chair Ebersole announces that he will be attending the Board of Curators meeting the first week of December in St. Louis.

**Agenda:** Approved.

**Draft minutes of 6 November:** Approved.

**Provost’s report:** Provost Gail Hackett has requested this time to update the Senate regarding the UM Strategic Initiatives. In recent weeks, listening sessions have been held with groups involved with the key initiatives (the next of these, with the Diversity and Community Engagement initiatives, will be held Thursday 29 November). All reports from these sessions, as well as the Provost’s presentation (in PowerPoint) will be available from a single page on the Provost’s website. Senator Burnett encourages all present to go to the site and familiarize themselves with these materials.

Some background: The strategic planning was begun in 2008. The Provost recounts that during her interviews for the position, she was told that faculty were tired of planning and wanted to get on with action. There was a great deal of existing material; she began by forming working groups and a writing team that worked almost weekly trying to extract and consolidate information from all the planning materials. The strategic plan was vetted in spring 2009, with a commitment to revisit and revise the plan on a yearly basis.

The plan contains six goals. For each goal objectives were developed and for each objective, strategies. Several system metrics were identified for each goal. This was unveiled in fall 2009 and an implementation plan developed in 2009-10.

The implementation will take place over three phases. Since 2010 the focus has been on developing implementation plans for the first phase, which is expected to unfold over 1 to 4 years; no planning as yet for implementation over mid-range and long-term phases.

The Provost briefly discusses three of the goals:

*Goal 3: Advance Urban Engagement*

This is the area where advancement has been weakest and thus where most immediate effort is needed. Progress has been made in enhancing sustainability efforts, especially in the administrative area; some of the strategies are being executed, but not yet all of the objectives.

*Goal 4: Excel in Visual and performing arts*

An early desire to incorporate part of this goal into the new GenEd requirement did not come to fruition.

*Goal 5: Embrace Diversity*

An active Chancellors’ Diversity Council has been created, and need-based scholarship funds are being increased. A draft diversity plan for the campus is being laid out, the purpose of which is to identify a single objective for immediate action, which in turn would show 1) that the plan is being enacted, and 2) that the plan is in fact guiding the progress.

The Provost summarizes this part of her remarks by saying that of the four campuses, UMKC is the furthest along; Columbia has also identified strategic priorities, especially in the research area, and the other campuses are just beginning. At the same time, the System is also developing a plan; and while there has been confusion regarding potential contradictions between two levels of planning, it appears that the system plan will work to support the campuses except in areas where the system should lead, for instance in system-wide IT or HR organization and development. But the system plan will not interfere in areas such as academics and research on the campuses.

To continue: UMKC’s strategy is primarily a financial one, premised on increasing student retention and raising enrollment to approximately 20,000 students by 2020. But, the Provost says, the overriding need now is to prioritize the recommendations coming out of the strategic planning groups. While some funding sources have been identified for particular needs, the Provost sees the state’s share of funding continuing to decline, and acknowledges that increasing enrollment will not always make up for this loss.

A Provost’s reserve fund of some $1.1 million is in place to help launch some projects, and is fully committed at present. As yet few funding targets are at the stage where they can be rolled off the list to free up these funds for new projects. We need to develop plans for how to fund the University in the long term, after the enrollment levels out and we can no longer depend primarily on enrollment increases to fund our deficits.

System President Timothy Wolfe has hired consultants to assist in the planning processes; handouts on the Provost’s website detail, in part, comments from consultant visits to the four campuses. Campus leaders “would like to come to [various constituencies]” with suggestions for prioritization around these recommendations and to get feedback. The group will then reprioritize in response to feedback, and will repeat the cycle with constituencies a couple of times. The group also hopes to engage with constituencies in exercises about the fiscal issues we face, using some tools developed by the company Innosight.

[In the course of this extended discussion, the Provost reported on a new university ranking system called Carnegie Community Engagement, replacing/complementing the Carnegie Research designations. Campuses must apply for the Engagement designation; progress on UMKC’s application will be a topic in an upcoming report-out session. A strategic planning work group has been focusing on how we can achieve this classification.]

Brief questions for the Provost led to the information that the goal of 20,000 enrolled students would be calculated by credit hours/FTE, and that campus enrollment currently sits at about 15,000. Queried about how the strategic plan sees “community engagement,” the Provost suggested direct conversation with people on that committee, as it is a complicated question not to be dealt with in a few minutes’ response. Finally, the Provost requested that two members of the Faculty Senate be added to the Coordinating Committee for Strategic Implementation.

**Proposed revisions to UMKC Faculty Senate SOPs: second reading and vote**

There was no discussion, and approval was unanimous, with 18 present voting “aye.”

**Updates on GenEd Implementation**

Senator Wycoff reports that several topics have arisen in recent meetings:

* F2013 transfer students will be subject to current articulation agreements; the 100 -and 200-level discourse courses will be being taught, with 300-level courses to follow in F 2014.
* Pathway will tag GenEd courses by their attributes.
* Meetings with advising groups will take place before the end of the semester. In answer to questions about lab requirements, the units still decide how these are to be qualified.
* Regarding assessment, two fillable PDF forms for are now available; these can be found at the end of the University Assessment Plan document.

Questions about the central administering and structuring of the GenEd program, beyond what is standard for other areas of coursework, are still under discussion, as is the question of administrative oversight. The GenEd committee has given no recommendation about how or by whom this should be handled.

**Report from Faculty Senate Budget Committee**

Senator Luppino, the chair of FSBC:

 FSBC has met with Senators Wycoff and Dilks to discuss financial issues concerning GenEd. The meeting led to some interesting discussions; the minutes are available.

 FSBC is exploring a subject the UBC had been asked to defer pending further study by the Provost’s Office and the Research Office-- how the “indirect monies” (also known as “Recovery F & A”) which constitute approximately 50% of external research grants are applied, both between the Research Office and academic units and within academic units. It learned that Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development Lawrence Dreyfus is nearing completion of a comprehensive study and arranged for him to make a presentation to the FSBC, with a presentation to the UBC to follow.

 There is a question about how the University College will be paid for going forward, as its development used one-time funds. The FSBC is suggesting that the UBC compile and circulate a summary of the budget and resources of the University College operations.

 Further items which require UBC response or engagement:

Possible that up to $5 million will be freed up for UMKC for this fiscal year, because of the ultimate cut in the state appropriation from the prior year being smaller than anticipated when the current-year budgeting was done in late April 2012. The UBC is monitoring the potential availability of this additional funding and providing input to the Chancellor and Provost on their proposals for priority uses for such funding.

In summer 2012, UBC reviewed major components of the budget model. One question concerns how the state allotment of $70 million is being divided, especially now that its amount is approximately equivalent to the central support costs the academic units pay through the General Overhead Assessment under the UMKC Budget Model.

FSBC, through UBC, is requesting to learn from the system how the President’s proposed strategic-initiative fund of 5 – 10% of state funding for the system will affect the salary pool. Senator Luppino adds that Provost Hackett is sympathetic to the salary concerns and continues to make salary improvement a matter of UBC priority concern.

Finally, on this general topic, Senator Burnett asks if the UBC can make the finances specific to the System’s strategic initiatives clear, even itemized? Senator Luppino replied that he has been pressing for this, but that specifics have not yet been announced. One Senator mentioned hearing at a meeting that the strategic holdback plan may be postponed and not implemented for FY 2014, and Senator Luppino said he had not heard that but would look into it.

Adjournment was at 4:44 pm. The last meeting of the semester is scheduled for 5 December.