UMKC Faculty Senate

Meeting of 18 September

DRAFT Minutes

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

Welcome & Information Items (Gary Ebersole, Chair)

* Introduction of new Senators: Andy Holder from Chemistry Dept. (College of Arts and Sciences); Nancy Weatherholt, Bloch School; Kara Flowers, Nursing.
* UMKC’s IFC representatives Senator Nancy Stancil, Senator Carol McArthur and Chair Gary Ebersole will be attending the annual retreat of the IFC on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.
* Chair Ebersole will attend the Fall Meeting of the Association of the Chairs of Faculty Senates in Jefferson City, Oct 8th and 9th.

Draft Agenda approved with these changes:

* Addition: Discussing the implementation of timeline for the GenEd
* Subtraction: Provost’s remarks; she has sent word that she is under the weather.

Approval of 4 September meeting, draft Minutes:

Senator Sue Sykes Berry notes the incorrect spelling of her name. Presuming that correction, Sykes Berry moves for approval, Carole McArthur seconds. With no objections, minutes approved.

**Item: Document Solutions Center**

Cathy Simonds, Client Relations Manager in Procurement Services, introduces Warren Dinkins, manager of the new Document Solutions Center. The university system entered into a agreement with Xerox last year which resulted in the Document Solutions Center. The Center is located at 4825 Troost; other locations were surveyed and the best fit to convenience was this building. Overhead was also a factor in this decision.

The Center will be open weekdays from 7 am – 6 pm. It offers a wide variety of sevices in addition to high-quality printing: complementary design consultation, electronic job submission, and twice-daily delivery of completed jobs to both campuses, among others. Cost can be charged to a rate card; in general, billing is versatile. For further information and to access the catalogue of services, go to UMKCprint.umkc.edu.

**Item: Smoke Free UMKC**

Amy Johnson, Student Representative to the Board of Curators and Smoke Free UMKC Co-Organizer, observes that UMKC has no smoking policy beyond the ban in all buildings; there are a few designated areas where people can smoke, but no area of campus allows one to escape the smoke altogether. Caleb-Michael Files, Smoke Free UMKC Co- Organizer, presents a report of the organization’s research. Among its findings are that 755 institutions around the country have tobacco policies, and that 80% of institutions in Missouri have smoking bans and other policies concerning campus tobacco use. The organization is in the process of establishing a committee to advocate a tobacco-free campus and to create the necessary policies. Along with its emphasis on education, the committee will help design cessation programs. There is support from the Curators, the director of Safety and Health, the leader of UMKC’s Wellness Program, campus administrative leadership, and others for both the policy and attendant support mechanisms. Finally, the co-coordinators emphasize that the goal is to have a tobacco-free, not only a smoke-free, campus, within the year; and note that such a ban would extend to chewing tobacco, hookah use, and e-cigarettes.

A question about the current stage of the process indicates that the medical student association has already approved the idea; it will go before SGA on 2 October and before Staff Council later in the month. Other questions are in regard to who would be eligible for cessation help, especially concerning incoming students; here, campus ambassadors would be called upon. One senator observes that UMKC does in fact have a smoking policy that includes a distance-from-building-entrance rule; the problem has been that no one is charged with enforcing it, making for some potentially awkward situations (in the case of a student addressing a faculty member, for instance).

Brief discussion leads to a Sense of the Senate resolution:

“The Faculty Senate endorses the formation of a campus-wide committee to move toward implementation of a tobacco-free institution.”

Senator Andy Holder moved to approve the resolution; Senator Jerry Wyckoff seconded. The motion was approved, with 2 abstentions.

**Item: General Education curriculum implementation**

Ebersole begins by reminding all that the GenEd committee is a standing committee of the Senate, and reports to the Senate; it needs to be staffed and charged, ASAP. Some units have already elected members: Computing and engineering; Library; Conservatory. Several units have no undergraduate programs and thus no committee participation. Members thus far are

Library: Diane Hunter

Computing and Engineering: Jerry Richardson

Conservatory: Melita Belgrave

Discussion: re co-teaching

Mandate? or guidelines? regarding “sufficient” overlap of co-teachers in classroom. Views range from a recommendation for stating no percentage to stating a very clear requirement/goal. Burnett suggests that guidelines are necessary; Wyckoff believes that guidelines may give too much flexibility and urges less wiggle-room. For Dilks, the ideal overlap would be 100%; he offers that we are not simply looking for different perspectives on a particular issue or idea, but rather that faculty exchange around different ways of seeing an idea is elemental to the teaching process. Such discussion models for students how thoughtful discourse takes place and thus is essential to student learning; a minimal requirement of 50% overlap is suggested, and is noodged towards 60% as discussion continues, though there remains concern for flexibility, for freedom in the means of enacting the coordinated approach. McArthur asks whether we in fact have sufficient faculty to staff the Gen Ed courses as planned, to which Wyckoff responds that people who have been teaching cluster courses will adapt readily; other departments will have to figure out staffing as we go.

Discussion: re approval of working documents

Senator Morehouse, speaking at the request of the Conservatory’s Curriculum Committee chair, asks for one more month for an open-forum discussion about the plan and for proposal of courses. Ebersole responds that the process of moving toward the new GenEd curriculum has been under way for more than 2 years, and that “if somebody is not up to the mark it will slow down the entire process.” Further, he notes that there must be time for all information to be entered into the course catalogue for AY 2013-14, and that course offerings need not be complete and fixed by that time.

Wyckoff describes the draft documents: Two proposal sets, 1 each for anchor courses and platform courses; and a schedule for assessment. He received feedback about some discrepancy in assigned terms vis-à-vis the earlier draft; as a result, the names of the platform courses have been changed to reflect the learning outcomes of those courses. There were no changes to the anchor courses.

Specific concerns and questions: Ebersole comments on the request that a department or program commit to offering a proposed course every year or every semester. Since in some departments there not enough faculty to commit in this way, he proposes that departments be able to have a selection of approved courses, so that in a given period the department could offer courses in such a way as to support faculty course rotations. Senator Holder asks whether it is the content or the structure of courses that is the purview of the GenEd curriculum committee; Wyckoff explains that course content is the responsibility of the department that originates the course and not the responsibility of the GenEd curriculum committee. Wyckoff further notes that while some of the Discourse 1 courses will be taught by doctoral students, Discourse 3 courses are to be taught by the full-time faculty (regular or non-tenured faculty). A final comment: that “this is a strategic initiative that needs support at the level of money, and not just one time but on an ongoing basis. We are [beginning with] getting financial support for 16 anchor courses.”

The motion to approve the mechanism for the formation and approval of Gen Ed courses, put forward by Senator Wyckoff and seconded by Senator McArthur, comes to a late vote. Totals: 15 to approve; 2 opposed; 2 abstention.

Adjournment is at 5:08 pm.