

UMKC Faculty Senate

August 20, 2013 Meeting Minutes - Approved

Administrative Center, Plaza Room, 3 p.m.

Present: Abreu, Barber, Bethman, Ellinghausen, Flowers, Gardner, Gerkovich, Van Horn (representing Holder), Kilway, Kumar, Luppino, McCall, Pennington, Wyckoff (representing Persechini), Richardson, Schweitzberger, Solose, Sykes Berry, Van de Liefvoort, Ward-Smith

Excused: Grieco, McArthur, Plamann

Absent: Dilks, Igwe, Morehouse, O'Brien, Petrie, Srivastava, Stancel, Taylor, White

Guests: Hackett (Provost), Morton (Chancellor)

Welcome and Announcements

Peggy Ward-Smith, Chair of the Faculty Senate, welcomed those in the room to the first meeting of the academic year.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Chancellor's Remarks

Chancellor Morton welcomed faculty back and expressed his excitement for the upcoming year.

The university is involved in a campaign to add a ½ cent sales tax to the ballot in Jackson County this fall. If passed, the tax increase would raise approximately \$40 million dollars per year, with \$8 million coming to the university. The purpose would be to fund translational research activities.

Over the summer, The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation donated \$20 million dollars to support a downtown arts campus. The donation is a three-year challenge grant. The university needs to raise \$23-25 million in order to secure matching

funding from the state. Chancellor Morton expressed his gratitude to Conservatory Dean Witte and others for all of their hard work.

The state has a \$400 million dollar surplus, but the legislature is considering major tax cuts that would impact its use.

Enrollment is level with the previous year. But we should see this as good news considering other institutions are seeing declines. Student retention efforts appear to be working.

The university is celebrating 80 years this year. It is interesting that the institution is facing some of the same challenges now as it faced back then. The university continues to work on a long-term plan to make the institution financially sound.

Chancellor Morton is really excited about the new facilities that are open, including the Henry W. Bloch Executive Hall for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and the Miller Nichols Learning Center. The campus is looking really good right now.

Provost's Remarks

Provost Hackett also welcomed everyone back. She thanked all those who attended convocation and orientation activities, noting increased attendance by both students and faculty.

Overall, enrollment is flat. This should be seen as relatively good news as enrollments across the country are trending downward. Institutions are faced with a couple of challenges in this area as high school graduation is projected to decline for the next few years and more people are getting back into the work force instead of taking classes as the economy improves. Provost Hackett did note that UMKC is making strong improvements in getting the word out about UMKC.

While overall enrollment is flat, we are seeing improving success with our student retention efforts. Final numbers are not in yet, but initial figures project a three point increase over last year and a seven point increase over the last four years. Overall six-year graduation rate is projected to be at 50%. The increase is fantastic news for UMKC, and evidence that our focus on student retention efforts is working.

Provost Hackett is preparing a report on the University of Missouri system strategic plan and will present that at the next Faculty Senate meeting. She noted that the plan will provide opportunities for us to bring in additional funding over the next four years.

Senator Gardner asked when the appointment letters would be distributed. Faculty are getting nervous as they begin teaching classes without contracts. Provost Hackett and Chancellor Morton were not sure what specifically was holding up the letters. Senator Gardner also asked if the policy on executive education workloads could be revisited. Provost Hackett indicated a willingness to discuss this further another time.

Provost Hackett indicated that Dean Tan of the Henry W. Bloch School of Management will be stepping down at the end of the year. A search committee will be formed. She also announced the recent hiring of Dr. Devon A. Cancilla, Vice Provost for Online Education and Distance Learning.

Dr. Wyckoff, who was sitting in to represent Biological Sciences as both senators were absent, asked about the recent consultants' report on the possibility of merging the School of Medicine and the School of Biological Sciences and what the next steps were. Chancellor Morton indicated that a faculty meeting would be scheduled.

Senator Introductions

Faculty Senate Chair, Peggy Ward-Smith, asked everyone to introduce herself or himself.

Dr. Wyckoff then updated the Senate on the General Education program. 90% of incoming freshmen are enrolled in anchor/discourse I courses. This is above expectations for the first year of the program. He expressed his appreciation to those who worked hard on developing the program, getting courses developed and scheduled, etc.

The General Education Curriculum Committee, under the auspices of the Faculty Senate, approves General Education courses. They are planning on meeting biweekly. Curriculum Navigator is used to submit and approve new courses. Unit curriculum committees should be familiar with the process and should be able to guide individual faculty members. Dr. Wyckoff stressed that it is important that every unit with undergraduate programs be represented on the committee. They also welcome participation from units without undergraduate programs. Steve Dilks is the Discourse Coordinator and will oversee the discourse aspects of the program. Dr. Wyckoff indicated that there is a need to have two Senators on the committee to replace himself and Dr. Holder.

Maintenance of Prior Senate Activities

Chair Ward-Smith indicated that she had uncovered 18 boxes of paper files pertaining to Senate activities. There was a miscellaneous assortment of materials including dean evaluations, election ballots, minutes, and other materials.

She proposed shredding everything except for two binders of COSCO reports. There was some discussion on whether to scan the documents, but that would take a lot of effort. A question was raised on whether some items should go to the university archives. Provost Hackett recommended that evaluation and election materials be shredded and to check with university archives on the other items.

Rosters of Faculty Persons for Each Unit

Chair Ward-Smith brought up the rosters of faculty persons for each unit. Voting faculty persons for each unit are to be identified by the Senators from those units. Draft rosters will be issued soon. They will need to be revised as needed and sent back to the Chair. These rosters are used for campus faculty voting activities as well as dean evaluations. Both activities are handled through Blackboard.

Senate/Campus Committee Memberships

Chair Ward-Smith then went through faculty/Senator representation needs for various committees. The Facilities Advisory Board needs three Senators (three-year terms). Two Senators are needed for the Faculty Grievance Committee. One Senator is needed for the Parking Committee. A Senator is also needed for the University Faculty Committee on Tenure.

Senator Luppino indicated that the Faculty Senate Budget Committee needed faculty representation from the School of Education.

Chair Ward-Smith indicated a need to update the rosters on the Faculty Senate Committees page to include terms for the various committee members. It was also noted that the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee is now the General Education Curriculum Committee.

Chair Ward-Smith indicated that a number of system and campus activities necessitates active committees involved in faculty welfare and academic issues. She will begin work on reviving those two Faculty Senate committees.

Dean/Provost Evaluations

Chair Ward-Smith indicated that the Deans for Dentistry, Education, and Pharmacy are scheduled to be evaluated this academic year. This faculty component of the evaluation is handled by the Faculty Senate Administrative issues Committee in

collaboration with the Office of Institutional Research. Those evaluations are scheduled for October 8-25.

Medical School Dean Drees and Provost Hackett will also be evaluated this year. These evaluations are also being scheduled for October 8-25. Both individuals are supervised directly by the Chancellor.

Senator Gardner asked if the 360 evaluation tool could be used within units to evaluate department chairs. Chair Ward-Smith indicated that was fine and that units could utilize the Administrative Issues Committee calendar and procedures as a guide.

Posting Prior Senate Documents

Chair Ward-Smith reported that there have been some challenges securing Senate documents from the previous academic year. Those documents will be distributed to the Senate and posted on the website when they are received.

Changes to Standard Operating Procedures

Chair Ward-Smith reported that the Board of Curators approved changes to the Senate Standard Operating Procedures that include staggered terms for officer positions as well as term limits. The approved document is available on the Faculty Senate website.

Faculty Bookstore Orders

Chair Ward-Smith brought up a recent news item in the *University News* about issues with faculty ordering class materials in a timely manner. According to the article, 24% of faculty submitted textbook requests by the deadline. Also, if the textbook is not going to be used that semester, the bookstore will not buy back used copies. The article indicated this issue had been brought to the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Senate discussion raised a number of points. One Senator indicated the process was not clear and the submission form on the Bookstore site was not easy to use. Unit support for this is uneven. Some units have staff that help faculty place the orders, some units do not. Faculty do not get reminders to do this before the deadline and there is little discussion about it at faculty meetings. A question was raised as to whether book ordering could be incorporated into Curriculum Navigator or Pathway. The number of copies to order can be a challenge as we strive to increase enrollment.

Chair Ward-Smith will invite Pete Eisentrager, Assistant Director – UMKC Bookstores, to a future meeting to discuss ways this process can be improved.

Faculty Senate Goals for the Year

Chair Ward-Smith then discussed some areas she would like the Senate to focus on this year.

This is the first year for the General Education program and we need to keep an eye on this and be prepared to report on successes at the end of the year. Dr. Wyckoff reported that enrollment and course approval data could be used to measure progress. There should also be assessment data available in the spring.

The total compensation package for faculty has seen changes in recent years and there is talk of more changes to come. Faculty Senate needs to be involved in discussions at all levels. Senator Luppino voiced his support for this, noting that faculty with expertise in medical insurance need to be involved.

Vice-Chair Kilway asked if the campus budget model could be reviewed this year. Senator Luppino indicated a willingness to tackle this, noting that it has been altered in past years when seen as beneficial to the university to do so. Dr. Wyckoff voiced his support for a budget model review, noting that the School of Biological Sciences has been severely impacted in past years. Senator Luppino reiterated his view that

the funding model is open to review, but noted that changes need to maintain a fair and equitable distribution of funds. He also noted that the bigger issue is that there is simply not enough revenue to the university to cover current costs.

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:30 p.m.