Regular UMKC Faculty Senate Meeting (MINUTES)
March 7th, 2017
Plaza Room, Administrative Center
3-5P


Also Present: Barbara Bichelmeyer, Beci Edmundson, Christine Popoola, Amy Watson, Cory Beard, Ruth Cain, Jane Greer, Jennifer Waddell, Gina Campbell, Kim McNeely, Benjamin Howard-Williams, Aaron Reed, Marilyn Yoder, Andrea Drew, Cindy Pemberton, Tristen Caudle, Brenda Bethman

Excused: Jerzy Wrobel

Absent: Nancy Weatherholt, Phil Byrne, Valerie Ruether, Sybil Wyatt

1. Approval of Minutes and Draft Agenda (Wyckoff) 3 minutes
Meeting called to order at 3 pm. The minutes from the last meeting and the agenda for today’s meeting are approved.

2. Welcome and Information Items (Wyckoff) 7 minutes
Chairperson Wyckoff discusses the statement from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. There is a student that is missing, a student was stuck overseas due to the immigration executive order, an alumnus was shot in a hate crime last week, and a student was raped on campus about a week ago. There also have been some discriminatory incidents at other UM system campuses and Missouri at large, such as at Mizzou (two students were suspended for making anti-Semitic remarks). As a community, we need to be proactive in spotting potential problems before they happen and have a better and more coordinated response to these issues when they occur. Discussion ensues of other issues on campus.

3. Volunteers for Title IX panel (Wyckoff) 10 minutes
a. Vote
Chairperson Wyckoff shares that university regulations have changed and 20 faculty are needed to serve on the Title IX panel. IFC chair Viviana Grieco already serves on the panel. Four volunteers are needed since 16 people are already on the panel. Serving on the panel is a three year term. Members of the Grievance Review Panel will be asked to serve on the Title IX panel. Senators unanimously approve to include those on the Grievance Review Committee on the Title IX office list. Senators also vote that those on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and willing members of the Grievance Review Committee can be included on the panel.

4. Procedure for reorganization discussion (FSEC and Reorg Task Force) 30 minutes
a. Presentation of draft (linked here):
b. Discussion and vote
The document revisions include an introduction, definition of terms, and color coding of the timeline for clarity. Senators discuss the proposal. The Bloch School in the CR&Rs does not reflect its current name. Also, Libraries is very explicitly defined. UMKC is the only university in the UM system that lists its bylaws by specific unit names, which is problematic when defining units. The proposal document can add this document in as a SOP and change the CR&Rs later. The faculty of the units should subject the proposal to a vote. The members of the faculty governance groups mentioned in the proposal are elected from academic units. Senators suggest striking “faculty governance groups” and replacing it with “voting groups”. The Steering Committee exists as a faculty governance group. Sections 9 a, b, c and section 12a have been revised to reflect today’s discussion. Senators vote unanimously for the document as amended.

5. Gen Ed Task Force 2.0 (FSEC, TF Co-chairs Greer and Waddell) 40 minutes
a. Discussion regarding next steps (Faculty Senate)
The taskforce is presenting on three models today and other learning outcomes. The taskforce hopes that by the next meeting, the learning outcomes will be endorsed, as well as one of the models to go to the Provost for a final decision. The general education program will focus on SLOs rather than course based AACU value rubrics. All handouts are currently on the Faculty Senate website. The “Math Pathway” will be variable as to need and specific career goals (ex. Math for elementary educators, statistics, etc). The models were created to achieve the student learning outcomes and follow the 30 hour standard credits. The first 15 hours of the models include foundation courses such as Math Pathway, writing, oral communication, and experience. Experience courses will get students involved in the Kansas City community and will align with the civic and urban engagement SLOs. The second 15 hours might/could in some models include upper level courses as well as critical thinking courses. Current anchor classes can be proposed as courses to fulfill the requirements in the models, but these must be re-certified.

After the Provost approves the learning outcomes, there will need to be an implementation plan. A full faculty vote is not part of the taskforce’s remit. The Provost shares that the taskforce has spent hundreds of hours and demonstrated expertise. The Faculty Senate should endorse the learning objectives based on their expertise. The Provost suggests either taking the decision to an all-faculty vote or have the Faculty Senate vote (since senators represent various academic units). If the Faculty Senate moves to endorse one of the three models at the next meeting, the model can be presented at the All Faculty Meeting on April 4th and afterwards the faculty can endorse the model. Senators share concerns about how to count an all faculty vote and implementation. Voting faculty will follow Faculty Senate voting rules and can include NTT faculty. The Provost shares that the best recommendation may be that faculty vote both on model and implementation of plan. Senators also question the taskforce about what model is easier to implement and what resources would be needed. Having an implementation plan is important for moving forward. The models will also help facilitate students entering graduate programs. Team teaching is allowed in all three models, but is not mandatory. Furthermore, senators have concerns if whether these models and objectives align with Missouri legislation. The state situation is not clear, but there still is a need to connect to the goal of statewide articulation. The goal is to implement this new general education curriculum by Fall 2018.
At the next Faculty Senate meeting on March 21st, there will be another conversation about the models and how to engage in a discussion about them with the faculty to have a vote. There can be an open comment period, during which comments would be sent directly to unit senators and senators can then bring these comments to the next meeting. Also, at the next meeting, Faculty Senate can vote a model forward for development (not implementation) that could then be brought to an all faculty vote. The Provost suggests an open conversation to be taped with the taskforce with a notice and comment space.

b. Presentation of models (Gen Ed TF)
Models are currently on the Faculty Senate website.

6. Relay for Life Information (Caudle and Pennington) 10 minutes
The flyer is currently on the Faculty Senate website. Caudle and Pennington encourage senators to spread the word for cancer survivors, partners, etc. to attend the event to be recognized.

7. Discussion of next meeting and action items (FSEC) 20 minutes
At the next meeting on March 21st, the Chancellor will discuss Athletics for 1.5 hours, which is intended to be more question and answer rather than a report/lecture. UMKC spends about $12 million a year on Athletics. In the past, the Chancellor pledged to reduce the University subsidy of Athletics by 50%, but there has yet to be a plan for this reduction. Topics to be discussed include the proposed increase of fees to pay for Athletics. Currently, there is a $50 cap per semester, but with the proposed fee change, there will be a $500 increase a year. Also, there have been discussions about changing conferences. UMKC will more than likely stay Division I. Questions may be sent to the Faculty Senate ahead of time. There will also be questions after the presentation. Athletics is framed as part of the recruitment and retention strategy. There also needs to benchmarks for Athletics. The SGS refuses to vote on Athletics because students do not see the value. Senators bring up questions about scholarships in relation to the dance team and how to build up the UMKC community in a non-Athletics focused manner.

8. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm.