Regular UMKC Faculty Senate Meeting (MINUTES)
March 21st, 2017
Plaza Room, Administrative Center
3-5P


Excused: Jack Nelson, Bi-Botti Youan, Melanie Simmer-Beck, Ceki Halmen

Absent: N/A

1. Welcome, Approval of Minutes and Draft Agenda (Wyckoff)
   Meeting called to order at 3:01 pm. Today’s agenda and the minutes from the last meeting are approved.

2. Discussion, Athletics (Chancellor Morton, FSEC)
   a. Presentation (45 minutes)
   All material is currently on the Faculty Senate website. Chancellor Morton gives a presentation about Athletics at UMKC. All material is posted on the Faculty Senate website. UMKC has about 260 athletes with an average GPA of 3.0 and above average graduation rates. The chancellor believes that student athletes and Athletics are valuable to the UMKC community. When Chancellor Morton started in 2009, he was given the task of major budget cuts, which included reducing institutional sports support by 50% (the cost of Athletics has increased since). The chancellor agrees that institutional support for Athletics is not sustainable and should be reduced substantially and expeditiously. The average costs of UMKC Athletics for Division I standing is slightly lower than the average for NCAA Division I universities without a football team. The chancellor mentions that revenue trumps spending as the biggest issue with Athletics. To increase revenue with ticket sales, sponsorships, etc., the city invested $5 million to renovate Municipal Auditorium so UMKC men’s basketball games could occur there.

   Student fees today are about one-fifth ($1.2 million) of the student fees at other Division I institutions that do not have football ($5.8 million). Gifts to UMKC Athletics have increased 45% from 2012. Other increases: 42% licensing, royalties, and sponsorships and 28% ticket sale increases. UMKC is part of the WAC instead of the Missouri Valley Conference, which includes Wichita State. Institutional support for UMKC Athletics is $10.5 million which needs to be drastically lowered, with $4.0 million for scholarships, $1.6 million for travelling, and $4.1 million for compensation. Institutional support for Division II schools, UMSL and MSU is $4.7 million and $7.0 million respectively. The chancellor proposes to reduce support by
scholarships and $3.5 million on compensation. There is a possibility of receiving support from the WAC and NCAA. He also proposes tripling student fees and to redistribute some of the student fees already existing, however admits that this is not feasible without strong support from SGA, which is not forthcoming. The chancellor further proposes that an annual increase of 2% in student fees each year as a cost-of-living increase is typical for most schools. Moving from Division I to Division II or discontinuing some sports all together may not be possible.

b. Discussion, Q&A (45 minutes)
The chancellor answers questions from senators and faculty. The $4.1 million designated for compensation is paid entirely by UMKC. Reductions in athletic subsidies will be $1.1 million for next year and $4.5 million long-term. These reductions do not include student fees. However, the institutional support subsidy includes student fees per the NCAA report. As of 2016, there are 231 Division I schools and UMKC is ranked 19th highest in percentage subsidy, which includes student fees. Also, the chancellor will be analyzing the pros and cons of moving UMKC to Division II or III. The chancellor cannot at this moment justify the potential increase in student fees. Enrollment numbers are low and Athletics does not increase student recruitment. 70% of students come from the Missouri area, but overall UMKC does not have as low of a rate as the feeder population rates. High school and community enrollment rates are significantly lower than UMKC. Chancellor Morton emphasizes marketing for increased enrollment. Some donors contribute specifically to Athletics. There is no information with improvements to the WAC travel schedule.

It was reported, via the media, that UMKC will generate revenue for participating in the CBI Tournament because of future payment for playing by the Gazelle group. Carla Wilson shares that ticket sales went to paying the $40,000 home game fee and donor contributions. Overall, UMKC received $20,000 in cash contributions from sponsorships and donors and $20,000 from ticket sales. Moreover, there are no discussions yet about building a baseball arena.

Senators share concerns about UMKC’s priorities toward academics over Athletics. Faculty scholarship and research receives no direct support from the core budget, but Athletics receives $12 million. Senators suggest reallocating Athletics budget to scholarships for students. Carla Wilson suggests that scholarships are going to needy students. Senators also ask the chancellor to develop more dynamic rather than static methods in doing budget cuts. One major community cash contribution includes $1.25 million in four years. An email from a NTT faculty states that golf and tennis athletes are often in the business school and come from the wealthier secondary schools. These students are often very exceptional students.

Senators unanimously approve the following motion:
The Faculty Senate tasks the Chancellor and CIE to articulate our priorities and develop an effective strategy that significantly reduces the cost of the University’s subsidy for Athletics inclusive of student fees. There should be an assessment and accountability plan that is presented to the Faculty Senate with progress reviewed semi-annually.

The provost appreciates this discussion and shares that Athletics is a strategy and UMKC needs to organize its priorities as a public urban research university. There are assumptions about athletics that are not unique to UMKC and she encourages faculty and staff to help determine UMKC’s priorities and how best to implement them.
UMKC needs to develop an effective strategy that substantially reduces the UMKC subsidy without increasing student fees. Routine data screenings and surveys may help with the analysis of the importance of Athletics in the UMKC community.

3. General Education Model (FSEC) 30 minutes
   a. Discussion and Endorsement

   Three models were presented at the last Faculty Senate meeting. There were about 121 responses to the survey, which are currently uploaded on the Faculty Senate website. Although the Cherry model was very popular among faculty, there were many notes and comments on implementation and articulation agreements.

   Concerns from the College of Arts & Sciences include: multiple changes of general education requirements over a 20-year period, how to roll out classes for 1500 students, compliance issues, and the need to keep the model simple. Other senators suggest writing classes that emphasize technical writing. The School of Education had a general meeting and discussed how the first-year experience would affect transfer students. The School of Computing and Engineering want to know how strict the course definitions will be as well as maintaining the transferability of courses within the colleges.

   Per the General Education Task Force, an implementation plan is under development. A senator suggests the development of social and behavioral classes in the 1st year experience and perhaps making this experience a 1 credit unit class. Senators vote unanimously to endorse the Cherry Model toward implementation. Senators also move to present the Cherry Model to the provost for further exploration with one senator opposed.

   The Provost emphasizes the importance of developing programming for the gen ed curriculum that could possibly involve study abroad or externships. Programming should be the focus for the General Education Committee. She encourages committee members and faculty to communicate the rationale behind the chosen model. Implementation must be transparent.

4. Adjournment
   Beci Edmunson introduces her replacements, Susan Hankins and Chris Popoola. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm