UMKC Faculty Senate

Regular Senate Meeting 3-5pm

6 February 2018

Draft Minutes

**Present:** Linda E. Mitchell, Gerald Wyckoff, Stephen Dilks, Viviana Grieco, Jacob Marszalek, Tom Mardikes, Ken Novak, Greg Vonnahme, Erik Olsen, JoDee Davis, Dale Morehouse, Roger Pick, Tara Allen, Ed Gogol, Deb Chatterjee, Ceki Halmen, Eric Gottman, Michelle Maher, Nancy Murdock, Sean O’Brien, Jennifer Allsworth, Margaret Brommelsiek, Hari Bhat, Valerie Ruether, Sandy Rodriguez, Jen Salvo-Eaton, Sybil Wyatt, Drew Rogers

**Also Present:** Barbara Bichelmeyer, Sheri Gormley, Joy Swallow, Jess Magana, Henrietta Wood, Dani Wellenmeyer, Kara Kynion, Diane Filion, Chris Popoola

**Excused:** Marilyn Taylor, Melanie Simmer-Beck, Christopher Holman, Ed Abreu

**Absent:** Da-Ming Zhu

**I. Opening Business** 3:03

Meeting called to order at 3:03pm. The agenda for today’s meeting and the minutes from the last meeting are approved.

**II. Announcements**

**Staff Activity Analysis Survey (Gormley)**

The Staff Analysis Survey will arrive in staff mailboxes on February 12th from UM System asking staff to detail how they spend their time at work. The survey will be computational using Qualtrex. Please encourage staff to complete the survey because this survey is a product of the Administrative Review at the UM System level. There will be staff meetings held to assist in completing the survey. We need specific, detailed data about staff workloads to identify places to improve efficiencies. If there any open positions, the survey goes directly to the supervisor.

**Letter Campaign to Legislature (Mitchell)**

Sample letters for the letter campaign to encourage the governor to change the budget plan are available. The caveat is that Dusty Schneiders (Director of Government Relations for the UM System) is working hard to help the legislators to understand the importance of higher education. It is fine if senators write a letter individually, sign a petition, or otherwise exercise free speech, but the Faculty Senate supports the MU system in its efforts to explain the social and economic benefits of Higher Education in Missouri.

**III. Provost/Interim Chancellor Update (Bichelmeyer)**

The re-organization process is ongoing. We need to have an open and effective series of conversations that take seriously legitimate ideas from faculty. We are still working on a process to incorporate counter-proposals and to ensure inclusivity, while making forward progress.

Provost Bichelmeyer is looking forward to continuing her role as the provost and is excited to move forward since her passion is academic success. The chancellor designate is a great match because he has an academic focus. Academic programming and research are our future and this chancellor will help us address those challenges. The implementation of the resource investment model continues; as do the other projects we are involved in. The main goal is to get to a place of “boredom” where everything is working and where success in teaching, research, and community service is normal. The provost reassures senators that UMKC is home that UMKC is very special to her.

**IV. IFC Report and Report on Board of Curators Meeting (Mitchell)**

IFC representatives explained the Distance Education report and the report on Alex Cartwright at MU and the financial health of MU. The strategic plan was discussed at the IFC meeting. System-wide strategic plans were due in December 2017 and were then distributed to Chancellors from the four campuses. The IFC sub-committees will get a draft of the universal strategic plan on March 19th and will have two weeks to give feedback.

The most recent IFC meeting had limited time with President Choi. The main focus was on budget and legislature. There was also another reading of the CR&Rs on Student Health reporting that identifies students who are at risk and helps remove them from campus in ways that are supportive of individual students while also protecting the campus community. This plan has consequences beyond financial. For example, the granting of involuntary leaves of absence is being reviewed by the legal department. Further questions include: will the process include problems caused by drug use or alcoholism? and what is the reporting structure if a student admits to a problem? This will not override the existing policy and should support extant policies; anything to do with credentialing and accreditation overrides these local CR&Rs.

Furthermore, House Bill No 1465 describes the relationship between community colleges and state universities in terms of granting of four-year degrees by those that previously only granted two-year degrees; or those that did not previously provide graduate degrees that now want to give them. The process needs an infrastructure to make it possible for a larger number of students to attend schools through local institutions that are sponsored by four-year colleges. State universities want to be granted the ability to award PhD’s. The distinction is that, while professional degree doctorates are being developed at state universities, research-based doctorates will remain at accredited research universities. We will not be asked to remove any programs, but competition will increase. There are students who want master’s and doctoral programs in remote places across the state and this House Bill is designed to accommodate these students. Steve Graham states that we will retain control over research programs, which is a good outcome in the sense that we hold onto what we have. But we need to get better to ensure our competitive edge over other institutions.

The forty-two credit core is designed for community colleges and two-year schools. If a student completes the core, we must accept the credits as general education credits when they transfer to UMKC. IFC will focus on how to ensure that students from community colleges are ready to do work at UM System campuses.

Some Comprehensive Universities are already offering 4 year advanced degrees as professional degrees [e.g. nursing]. UMKC and the UM System will keep our doctorate programs, but there will be more competition for students in such programs. Engineering is being protected, however, by the state law—only UM System will have advanced degrees in Engineering.

UMKC needs to focus on marketing academic programs and organizing in ways that make us a good place for transfer students. Senators are encouraged to review RPK data on comparative analysis of transfer students in relation to students who started at UMKC. It should be noted that the new chancellor has a strong record of using marketing and other administrative mechanisms to recruit and retain students.

IFC was invited to a late-morning roundtable conversation with the Board of Curators that focused on what we are doing well as well as challenges and barriers to success. Topics discussed included ways to enhance collaborative teaching and research across units.

Also, a new tuition structure was unanimously passed, and it includes Kansas and a large area of the Midwest: with the Heartland Rate, undergraduate students from 14 states pay 150% of in-state tuition, which represents a $10,000 value: the states are Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. There is also a special rate for students from Kansas. We need to retain students who can now go to these other states.

The Curators support the UM System in their opposition to the governor’s budget cuts.

Also, distance learning and course-sharing is being addressed in terms of technology which will allow students who are enrolled in the UM System to take courses on all campuses while being tagged to a specific university.

The next Board of Curators meeting will be in Rolla in April; it will meet in Kansas City in late September.

**V. Graduate Writing Initiative (Salvo-Eaton)**

The presentation is on the Faculty Senate website. The Graduate Writing Initiative (GWI) started as a grassroots group with representatives from School of Education, Libraries, Writing Studio, and SGS. The group partnered with SGS to survey graduate students and faculty in Fall 2013 and analyzed results and formed a Graduate Writing Advisory Committee. The GWI is a response to a demonstrated need for cross-campus support for graduate-level writing. The GWI guides, supports, and evaluates UMKC's resources and programs for graduate writers, and provides resources for faculty working with graduate students. Some duties include: identifying writing and research needs of graduate students, collaborating with graduate students, working with departments and offices across campus, and providing resources and learning opportunities. The overall goal is to improve student understanding and mastery of writing.

At UMKC, graduate students feel underprepared and sometimes feel left to fend for themselves. Also, faculty request support for their students and the provost has expressed a need for stronger graduate programs (especially master’s programs).

The GWI would like feedback on how to grow and better assist graduate students in their writing needs.

**VI. Other and New Business (FSEC)**

Dr. C. Mauli Agrawal will be welcomed to campus on Friday by the Senate and other faculty groups from 3:15 to 4:15 pm in the Plaza Room of the Administrative Building.

The questionnaire for the Deans’ Evaluations will be out next week to the faculty of the School of Medicine and School of Engineering and Computer Science.

The redrafting of the re-organization memo is underway, under the direction of Linda Mitchell and Diane Filion. We are generating a memo that lays out the process for restructuring but not yet constituting an “umbrella” committee because several of the moves and reorganizations are already underway: things are dynamic. The President and the Chancellor-designate support what we are doing.

The ratio between applications and acceptances is currently disastrous due to technology issues in Admissions and Enrollment Management. The CIE is charged with establishing a task force that will further investigate this matter with Past Chair Wyckoff as chair. The move of the Enrollment Management to the Provost’s Office did not cause this issue, but the move allows us to see the problem and fix it. Problem-solving and repair are actively underway.

**VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm.