**UMKC Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017**

**Draft MINUTES**

**Present:** Linda E. Mitchell, Gerald Wyckoff, Stephen Dilks, Viviana Greico, Jacob Marszalek, Tom Mardikes, Ken Novak, Greg Vonnahme, Erik Olsen, JoDee Davis, Dale Morehouse, Roger Pick, Marilyn Taylor, Tara Allen, Deb Chatterjee, Ceki Halmen, Melanie Simmer-Beck, Eric Gottman, Michelle Maher, Nancy Murdoch, Irma Russell, Jennifer Allsworth, Eduardo Abreu, Margaret Brommelsiek, Sandy Rodriguez, Jen Salvo-Eaton, Drew Rogers

**Also Present:** Provost Bichelmeyer, Sheri Gromley, Tony Luppino, Zach Linhares, Sullivan Read, Chris Popoola, Susan Hankins, Anne Spenner, Emily Miller

**Absent:** Da-Ming Zhu, Ed Gogol, Sybil Wyatt

**Excused:** Christopher Holman, Valerie Ruether

**I. Call to Order [Mitchell] (5 minutes)**

Meeting called to order at 3 pm. Senators introduce themselves.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda for today’s meeting is approved.

1. **Approval of Minutes of September 5, 2017 Meeting**

The Minutes from the last meeting are approved with one abstention.

**II. Provost/Interim Chancellor Update [Bichelmeyer] (10 minutes)**

Provost Bichelmeyer discusses the results of the Climate survey. About 80% of students feel comfortable, while 17% have experienced discomfort. This number reflects institutional national values. But the concern is that underrepresented minority groups constitute a significant percentage of those who have experienced discomfort. UMKC is working with Susan Wilson to determine how to manage these disheartening experiences. These results have influenced the new statement of values, as well as the work of IFC with the Statement of Faculty Conduct and the appointment of a staff ombudsperson.

It is advised that all faculty read the report from cover-to-cover, but the provost noted a few concerns. Over 40% of students need psychological services and counseling support. 35% of students considered leaving due to student organizations not being up to par and many referencing a lack of belonging. Student Affairs will further analyze this data via student focus groups. Having a Dean of Students title/position will help ensure and enhance the student experience on campus; this position is being considered for the Office of Student Affairs. Moreover, the Climate Survey will direct the development of our strategic plan and the Provost is developing focus groups to respond to concerns raised by the Climate survey. The survey showed that as many as 50% of faculty have seriously considered leaving UMKC in the past 5 years: we need to boost staff morale and improve morale across the entire campus.

The Mission Statement will be reviewed and a fifth compact of excellence in diversity and inclusion will be added.

The academic portfolio review will be held late September and there will be a presentation on course scheduling and faculty data. Also, the RPK Group began an administrative review on September 13th. The Provost is using focus groups to solicit input from students on access themes, specifically focusing on recruitment and the delivery of student services and activities that will make UMKC a more attractive educational institution. The finalization of the resource incentive model will be completed by the end of December; this report will address resource investment allocation in units.

Due to its historic significance as a date on which dramatic events have happened that directly impact our campus, November 9th will be a UMKC celebration with more details to follow in the future.

Five new curators have been appointed by the governor and there will be a Board of Curators breakfast on September 29th.

The provost shares that the hiring freeze will help UMKC determine what we need as a university and allow us to focus our priorities of students, teaching, and administration. Enrollment is down 2% with tenure and tenure track faculty down by 20%. We need to address retention and have strategic conversations with the deans and faculty. Retention can be addressed by putting full-time staff in the classrooms. Having a low student/faculty ratio is a selling point, but we must analyze these numbers to achieve what works best for us as a campus both pedagogically and financially. At the next Faculty Senate meeting, the provost will discuss teaching loads and post-tenure evaluations.

**III. IFC Report [Grieco, Marszalek, Mitchell, Wyckoff] (20 minutes)**

The IFC Report presentation is currently on the Faculty Senate website. IFC representative Marszalek shares that the IFC is a liaison committee between the President and faculty on the four campus. He shares the UM System President’s budget comments which include the need to cut nondiscretionary spending (currently at $300 million) and share the benefit of these cuts with the faculty. At the IFC meeting President Choi shared the need to educate the public about what faculty do; he is organizing a “Faculty Roadshow” to showcase how we contribute to local, regional, and national communities.

President Choi also wants feedback from all 4 campuses about the UM Vision Statement. The IFC noted that teaching/instruction is not explicitly mentioned in the statement. Moreover, the UM System is in the process of final interviews for hiring a government relations officer. IFC representative Grieco has been the sole faculty rep on the search committee. Grieco is also the IFC point-person for intercampus course sharing.

Regarding NTT Faculty, the CRRs need to be updated to reflect recent changes. Marszalek also discusses incentivizing outstanding faculty. Scott Curtis is the OER coordinator in the Libraries. System-ness is under discussion, with thought being given to which services should be distributed to campuses and which should be centralized: visa services is an example of a service that should be centralized. But the emphasis needs to be on treatment of the four campuses as equal but different.

The provost alerts us to recent articles about the UMKC Climate Study and her own response, which will be included as an op-ed in the KC Star [this appeared both online and in print]. The Provost underscored the idea that our campus does not benefit from MU’s pain: we need to see ourselves as a productive part of the system, celebrating and enhancing areas of research and teaching where UMKC is exceptional, but also supporting the other campuses where possible.

IFC Representative Grieco led a short discussion concerning the development of cross-campus course sharing initiatives, which are currently being set up as trials between UMKC and UMSL. There were specific concerns mentioned, especially regarding access to resources, especially databases that each unit subscribes to individually, which restricts access only to those students, and the problems of being the only Blackboard campus in the system. A senator explained that when the libraries negotiate subscription fees for the system as a whole, the prices tend to be greater than when each campus negotiates for itself. She thinks it's because the vendors see the system as a richer target: we need to negotiate as a system, avoiding inflated prices. Issues with discrepancies between Blackboard, Canvas, and other online delivery systems may arise: however, it is clear that students would appreciate more flexibility and offerings and that there are viable opportunities with course sharing to increase enrollment and improve pedagogical offerings. There is also an initiative that is growing to utilize Open Educational Resources instead of traditional textbooks in classes, especially those in which the cost of such books is very high. Scott Curtis is the Open Educational Resources contact in the MNL.

**IV. CIE Task Force on Athletics Preliminary Report [Luppino, Wyckoff, Mitchell] (30 minutes)**

Tony Luppino gives the CIE Athletics Task Force report which is currently on the Faculty Senate website. The Task Force [TF] is an advisory group only (no decision-making authority) with a mission to provide input for UMKC leadership. The TF is comprised of several faculty members, UMKC’s Athletics Director, and other Administration officials. While preliminary work commenced in late 2015 and continued in 2016, TF membership expanded as in-depth study and analysis has occurred largely over the last approximately six months. Key questions posed in the project plan ranged from whether UMKC should continue to have Intercollegiate Athletics at all, to whether we should remain a NCAA Division I school. Guiding principles include assessing the value of Intercollegiate Athletics in the context of UMKC’s strategic planning for its academic missions (teaching and research), assessing the value of Athletics to surrounding communities and to society generally, the role of Athletics in helping to position all students for life-long success and positive contributions to society, and the role of Athletics in providing rich and diverse student life experiences while at UMKC. “Opportunity Costs” of investments in Intercollegiate Athletics in the context of a deep costs/benefits analysis of resource allocation should be considered. Report and recommendations document will be issued mid-October 2017. The task force is not currently recommending any specific conference or division changes. The task force hopes to connect student experience and athletics, potentially through the development of a robust intramurals athletics program. Senators share commentary about which sports will remain and the relationship between conference changes and the student experience. Questions raised about the ease of buying tickets for Athletics events, about what are the indirect returns from the athletic program in terms of community connections, student life, campus identity, and so on.

**V. Discussion of Strategic Plan [Bichelmeyer] (10 minutes)**

The Strategic Plan document is currently on the website. The provost requests feedback by October 1st. The provost noted that questions of affordability might be put in the context of the teaching of fiscal literary to students, who might not be optimizing the equation between educational costs, loan repayments, potential salaries, and the overall benefits of a degree program. Further, the provost noted that we need to highlight interdisciplinary research and the interaction between teaching and research for both undergraduate and graduate students. The provost prioritizes the practice of research-infused teaching.

**VI. Marketing and Communications—New Website Design Update [Spenner] (20 minutes)**

A website design team discusses the home suite redesign. The team emphasizes the use of larger pictures on the home page and the home page being more student focused with more featured stories and better navigation menus. The redesign will be ongoing with dynamic content and more accessibility. This website design update should make it easier for prospective students to navigate. The website will be user tested and have an interactive site to ensure the design is accessible as possible. For website feedback, please visit <http://info.umkc.edu/news/home-suite-redesign/>. The website design is in the data collection phase with the hope of launching a test site in January. The website will be launched as early as May 2018 and as late as Summer 2018. Implementation will be ongoing. The presentation will be posted on the Faculty Senate website.

**VII. Chancellor’s Search [Mitchell] (20 minutes)**

Chairperson Mitchell discusses the criteria for the chancellor which will be posted on the Faculty Senate website. Feedback is due September 21st. The criteria emphasize having an academic background, as well as an understanding of how to run the business of education and a commitment to UMKC’s strategic plan. The search committee will be announced September 28th.

**VIII. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm.