Senate Minutes
Tuesday, March 1st, 2022
3-5pm, ZOOM

PRESENT: Adegoke, Ball, Barger, Bethman, Bhat, Boots, Chatterjee, DeSimone, Fields, Grieco, Gottman, Grimes, Hiett, Hunt, Keeton, Kilway, Leiter, Lynch, Mardikes, Myer, Olsen, Patterson, Riggers-Piehl, Shiu, Thompson, Torres, Turla, VanHorn, Wellemeyer, Wooten, and Zhu.
ABSENT: Ferguson
GUESTS: Newby, Popoola, and Smith.

1. OPENING BUSINESS:
      a. Call to Order & Approval of February 15th, 2022 minutes – Grieco
            i. Friendly amendment changing President Joy to President Choi in the minutes from the previous meeting.
            ii. Motion passes.
      b. Approval of Agenda – Grieco
            ii. Motion passes

2. BUSINESS CONTINUES
      a. Reminders: nominations for positions at FSEC; questions for all faculty meeting; election day holidays (5 minutes – Grieco)
            i. FSEC positions are open and we are accepting nominations.
            ii. We would like questions for the All Faculty Meeting circulated in advance.
            iii. During our last meeting, we shared a document put forward by the students from System asking for holidays on election days. Please discuss these with your units and bring the feedback to the senate.

      Q: Is it an annual holiday, or is it only during national elections? - Bhat
      A: It will apply every time we have elections. I assume all the way down to local elections. - Grieco
      Comment: My understanding is that it's every two years. - Shiu
      Comment: Students have proposed making election days holidays (class-free days) for the UM system. Federal General Election: First Tuesday after First Monday in November in even years. Federal Primary for Missouri: First Tuesday after First Monday in August in even years. Local Municipal Elections: First Tuesday after First Monday of April each year. August May not apply. - Leiter

3. PRESENTATION:
      a. Dean of Students – Dr. Michele Smith (40 minutes; 3:05 – 3:45)
            i. Dr. Smith presented about the division of student affairs. This includes Residential Life, Student Union and Auxiliary Services, Student Conduct & Civility, Student Engagement, Student Involvement, Campus recreation, Student Family/Parent Programming, Student Health and Wellness, Multicultural Student

Affairs, Counseling Services, Student Disability Services, Student Veteran Support Services, the UMKC Women's Center and Student Support.
ii. Dr. Smith aims to build a S.T.A.R.R. division by impacting student success, investing in a talented team, building a culture of ambitious assessment, strategizing to build the right relationships and engaging in responsible resources.

Q: Are the employment opportunities for student employment available to graduate students? Who should I have them contact? - Barger
A: Some of them are. We have positions for student employees available. It depends on the particular area. Have them contact the helpline. - Smith
Q: Every once in a while, maybe every 5 years or so there's a survey on the campus environment that students, faculty and staff participate in. Were you made aware of those recent surveys? Particularly the concerns of our students? If so, what jumps out to you as the major opportunities for innovation? - Adegoke
A: I have not been given the information from the previous survey. What I can say after being here for a short time is that we need to have a space where our students are seen as a part of our campus. How do we help our students navigate academically being on campus and making sure they're working on graduating in a timely fashion? Also, being a culturally conscious community stands out as an opportunity. We need to work on helping our students come to us, being able to work with our faculty and staff with various identities coming from various areas. We have to find ways for our faculty to partner with students both in and out of the classrooms. - Smith
Q: After joining have you done any student surveys to see what the pressing issues are for them? - Bhat
A: I have not done a specific survey but we have had listening sessions with the chancellor. Sometimes our students feel as if their voices aren't heard. Tonight at 5 pm, we have another listening session with some of our Latinx students. I want to do a survey but thought it best to come in and listen before doing so. I've moved my office to the hub for at least 3 days a week. - Smith
Comment: Many students are hesitant expressing their opinions. It might be better for them to contact you anonymously. You need to be cognizant of the students' experience. - Bhat
A: I'm putting an anonymous "what's on your mind" box outside my office door to receive that information. - Smith
Comment: One of the projects we had with the Avanzando mentoring program was an outside grant funding that collaboration. We've found that students of color often don't get the same opportunity to be mentored by experts in their department. That funding was a way to urge that collaboration. KC is a philanthropic city. -Torres
A: I'm always open to innovative ideas connecting faculty and students and compensating both for their time and work. - Smith
Q: Does Student Affairs have an office on hospital hill? - Wooten

A: Not currently, but I'm working on getting space to travel there and provide services throughout the week. - Smith

Comment: Regarding employment there was mentioned the portal, UMKC handshake: https://career.umkc.edu/students/ - Van Horn

4. DISCUSSION:
    a. Senate representation after reorganization – Kilway (45 minutes; 3:50 – 4:35)

        i. Bhat proposed two senators per unit. That way small units can have a voice. Most support more NTT representation. But most also feel that faculty senate members can fairly represent both, NTT and TT faculty members.

        ii. Van Horn and Turla proposed a change in the Senate SOP, determined by the senate, a representative number of senators reflecting the number of faculty in the unit. All of these things must be proposed as a CRR change. After sorting this out if we have proportionality.

        iii. Keeton proposed that we keep it simple. We borrow from Mizzou and Missouri State. Produce something that will last and not require frequent amendments to bylaws. Ensure representation of units is at least somewhat proportional to faculty counts. Make sure the NTT faculty have a say in who represents their units without guaranteeing them a number of senators. "The minimum number of faculty reps between 25 and 30". It would tie the number of senators to the number of voting faculty. Each unit gets one senator for every 24 voting faculty members or majority fraction thereof. The senate would change the basic ratio if the total number of senators would be outside that 25 to 30 rep range. This would keep faculty senate from constantly updating the bylaws. It's also important to make clear which faculty get to vote in other unit elections. Try to omit any references to schools. These changes would make it unnecessary to amend the bylaws in response to future reorganizations.

        iv. Shiu proposed a parity and responsiveness model. Changes in the CRR related to the number of senators will be periodically submitted for approval. He'd like to take units out of the discussion.

        v. Wellemeyer proposed a model with delegated seats for NTT. It's smart to update the CRR so that the FS does not have to keep updating bylaws. It would be a good thing to designate spaces for NTTs but remain flexible like the other proposals.

        Comment: The School of Medicine has primarily NTT faculty. We're comfortable keeping the way the school of pharmacy suggested. It'd be hard for us to find people who are available to attend the meetings. We'd elect to keep it the way it is. Kador had an idea where the schools on Hospital Hill were given additional senators from Hospital Hill, instead of individual schools. - Wooten

        "Up to" it's a question of representing faculty - Kilway

        Q: Not opposed to the NTT at-large idea, and am totally appreciative of the NTT who regularly serve on the Senate, which is about 1/3 of the Senate right now. My question is about the at-large—how to do that election? NTTs do vote in their

units for Senators and vote for an NTT at-large? How's that supposed to work? - Mardikes

Comment: I don't know who the NTT at large would be representing to/for. I think it's better to look for representation by schools. – Hunt

Comment: Tom's observation that a third of Senate is now NTTs is really indicative that Senate will have NTT faculty members even without hardwiring NTT representation. - Lynch

Comment: I like the idea of two taskforces, my request would be prior to senate voting you give us an opportunity to take this back to faculty and have them vote on the proposals. - Adegoke

A: You can share that information with your faculty in that way. - Kilway

Comment: Give us a month to work on proposals. If we're ready prior to the April 5th meeting, we can circulate the proposals and be ready by April 19th. I just wanted to envision a timeline. - Grieco

Comment: I think we use "Unit" and "Schools" sometimes interchangeably and sometimes meaning something different. I think it would be good to clearly define how we use those terms. It could also just be me getting lost in the different options presented. - Hunt

Q: Jamie, do you know if electing one NTT and one TT senator is specified in your unit bylaws, or if it is something you all just do as a practice? (Seems like a really great approach, by the way!). - Wellemeyer

In response to Mardikes, Missouri state does allow NTT vote for faculty reps. Each rank gets to vote for at large reps. It's possible, but complicated. I don't think we need to go that route. - Wooten

Comment: How we've been structured has guaranteed seating for big schools. My proposal would effectively reduce the number of senators. I think a larger number of faculty can petition for larger numbers if we use the language I've proposed. There's also the option of units to reduce their representation as well - Shiu

Comment: Hey Dani - I am looking at the bylaws and I don't see it but let me do some digging to see where that came from. - Hunt

Comment: Regarding voting, if it's the senate SOP it'd be the senate's prerogative. CRRs modifications will go to all faculty. I proposed leaving the language unrestrictive to the units so they can decide the voting and representation. I think we have NTT representation at large. I forgot to mention our proposal came out of a meeting with the SBCS. The other schools that are forming are invited to bring their proposals. - Van Horn

Comment: You can. The Senate SOP will work. The SOP in an internal document. The composition of the Senate has to be something that is determined by the UMKC faculty, and the UMKC Faculty Bylaws is the document that establishes that. If we make any changes, it's the UMKC Faculty Bylaws that would have to be amended. Therefore, any changes would have to go before the entire faculty for a vote. - Lynch

Comment: Bill's embrace of the Mizzou formula has the advantage of not reinventing the wheel, but has other constraints. Basically, I think we have a lot of good ideas. I propose a motion to create workgroups/task forces to further explore them. Who would like to chair these groups? - Grieco

Comment: I motion we have two working groups - Kilway

Motion passes

Q: Are there Volunteers to chair or should I ask outside the meeting? - Grieco

Q: What are the two groups going to be focused on? -Shiu

A: One for two plus type representation and one group for two per. - Grieco

A; More like one group exploring 2 senators per unit and one group exploring a situation where units determine their own representation proportionally. -Killway

Q: Why do we need two different working groups? Why can't we have one group working towards one resolution? - Bhat

Comment: Two senators per unit and proportional representation. And the 2nd group focuses on NTT representation. - Wooten

Comment: It's important to empathize with how many NTT faculty are on the senate right now. If we're confident NTT faculty will be naturally elected, then that dynamic should affect how many people we elect to each unit. I think they're connected enough that they should be explored by one group. - Lynch

Comment: I like the two groups because two options will create a dialogue. Senate vs 2 (minus or plus) might be a good way to think about it. Spurring more dialogue would be more helpful. - Shiu

Comment: Having worked in the new school of humanities and social sciences bylaws, we had two groups create options and it helped establish the differences between the options. It made clear what direction the faculty wanted to go. - Torres

Q: Separate NTT representatives for faculty implies that TT faculty aren't representing the interest of NTT faculty. Why do we indeed have separate representation for NTT? - Bhat

Comment: But NTT representation is variable based on election results - Shiu

Comment: I'd be happy to work with Anthony on the direction that our two proposals have in common. - Van Horn

Comment: The School of Medicine bylaws state that we have two representatives to the Faculty senate: one must be a TT faculty and the other can be NTT faculty member. - Wooten

Comment: I'm happy to work with David on the 2+/- group. - Shiu

Comment: Please Let me know if anybody else would like to volunteer. - Grieco

Comment: I can work on, but not chair, the NTT group. - Bethman

Comment: I'll create a box folder for proposal drafts. - Grieco

Q: Can you send the call for volunteers in writing, including what the groups will focus on? Thanks! - Wellemeyer

A: Yes, we'll get that done. - Grieco

5. LAST 10 MINUTES

       i. Grieco updated senate on the forthcoming changes in tuition. Provost Lundgren mentioned a high-level proposal being crafted at UMKC. For that proposal there is no direct faculty input. After that first instance at system, they'll vet the proposal through different groups. Faculty involvement will begin during that second round. The FSBC discussed this issue with Provost Lundgren. The entire process could take an entire year.

6. ADJOURNMENT

       i. Motion passes