

Senate Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2020
3-5pm, ZOOM

Present: Mardikes, Olsen, Dilks, Grimes, Shiu, Keeton, Boots, Wellemeyer, Chatterjee, Fields, Hiatt, Wooten, Hunt, Jefferson-Jones, Pluta, Kador, Turla, Kilway, Godley, Berkel, Holt, Patterson, Maher, Morello, Torres, Lynch, Fields, Grieco, Ferguson, Zhu, Bhat, Boots, Robinson, Burrus, Posadas, Henderson

Absent: Van Horn

Additional Attendees: Hankins, Riggers-Piehl, Haggins, Simmons, Popoola,

Guests: Provost Lundgren, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies Chris Liu

1. Business:

- a. Call to Order & Approval of October 6, 2020 minutes –Mardikes
 - i. Motion Carries
- b. Approval of Agenda –Mardikes
 - i. Motion Carries
- c. IFC Report –Jefferson-Jones (5 minutes)
 - i. Met on Friday, October 9
 - ii. Had a meeting with Students
 1. Resolution thanking staff for their efforts during COVID-19 pandemic
 - iii. Discussion with students concerning management of Spring Break
 - iv. IFC reviewed CRR updates
 - v. IT update on multifactor authentication

2. Update: Program Evaluation & Reorganization Task Force: --Kilway & Dilks (20 minutes)

- a. The categories we will include in our requests for further information include: revenue generation, head count, contribution to the university's mission, employability of graduates, and the universities context in the region/city. —Dilks
- b. Please restate state the 5 programs under scrutiny –Turla
 - i. They are global entrepreneurship, music performance, theater, education leadership, and biometric and health informatics. –Dilks
- c. What is the difference in the responsibilities between the Task Force and UMKC Academic Affairs Committee? –Chatterjee
 - i. The Faculty Senate has a reorganization task force and a program review taskforce. The deans are also engaging in a program review taskforce. –Dilks
- d. I am wondering if the Senate should rethink its involvement in this process. We were not given the proper data. Also, it seems the process is backward. We should

be waiting for the administration and deans to complete their reports first. – Keeton

- i. Since we have started meeting, we have had this conversation. In the final analysis, we have concluded that we are better off participating than not. In doing so, we can create defenses for departments that are under scrutiny. In fact, the least effective strategy would be to cut academic programs. It is more effective to cut administrative costs. –Dilks
 - e. I have been in contact with the head of the biometric and health informatics in the school of medicine. Has Mark Nichols been in contact with you? –Wooten
 - i. We hoped that after we started asking these questions at a program level, we would see information that makes each programs purpose clear. We are very conscience that the administration led us down a path with the data they created. As we close in on micro level analysis, we must consider smaller departmental details. –Dilks
 - ii. That is why we feel we need to participate. We are collecting reasons to keep supporting programs. –Mardikes
 - f. We have been given inaccurate and decontextualized data. This process feels like public shaming. After we articulate the purpose of our departments, can we plead their case to Senate? –Maher
 - i. That is exactly why Senate is involved in this process. The programs that jump out from the provided data will be under scrutiny. Our role is to enable these programs to construct their narrative that explains what is going on. –Dilks
 - ii. It seems like administration should have already known this information. – Wooten
 - g. The reorganization taskforce consists of, Maher, Hiett, Jackson, Morello, Fields, Kador, and Mardikes. We are trying to come together to present plans of reorganization. You will be receiving emails asking for input. --Killway
 - h. When we send out the information gathered by the committees to different departments, it would be a good idea to send them to the department heads beforehand. –Kador
 - i. Your point is taken. We need to manage this in a way that avoids panic. –Dilks
3. Discussion on Graduate Programs: --VC Chris Liu (20 minutes + 10 Q&A)
- a. Right now, we too have a taskforce. We just started the process about three weeks ago, so there are no results to report yet. Instead, we will be discussing our process, metrics, and why graduate education is critical. --Liu
 - b. Your presentation is helpful because Senate has been discussing these issues. How important are these rankings in regards of receiving increased funding from the state? –Chatterjee
 - i. This ties to how we address our societal responsibility. If our ranking improves and our graduates obtain better employment, we have a better case to ask for more funding. –Liu

- c. We are an urban research university. What is your stance on what truly represents UMKC now? –Shiu
 - i. If we brand UMKC as an urban research university, then what characteristics support that brand? Our mission defines us. We need to work together to come to a consensus on what programs best support this mission. However, we cannot choose everything. We must be selective. –Liu
 - d. Can you tell us who the members of your task force are? Also, can you ask that they keep clear communication with the faculty? Recently, we had meeting at the college of arts and sciences. The dean’s office stated that graduate programs may be eliminated. There was no notification of a taskforce looking at this aspect and it generated panic. We need clear messaging about how this process will be affecting graduate programs. Also, will departments have input during this process? –Grieco
 - i. Our committee members communicate with the deans and the departments. If the Senate requests it, we can share all our information. –Liu
 - e. I think that UMKC’s graduate programs have always been struggling. There is a problem of structure. In the physics department, we have been reduced to six or seven faculty. We are far below the number of faculty needed to perform meaningful research. –Zhu
 - i. In terms of the size of departments, we need to have a mindset change. The landscape for receiving grants has changed. We need to perform more interdisciplinary research to receive funding.
 - ii. If you can group small units together, it will provide more strength to them. We need restructuring because collaboration is harder between departments in different units. Also, our increased teaching load makes it difficult to write proposals and papers. –Zhu
 - f. I agree with Dr. Zhu. If we do not have the faculty and the time, it is hard to do meaningful research. I thought it was interesting that you brought up the University of North Texas because they grew through a partnership with a private company. We have a huge health sciences industry in Kansas City. Has your department considered developing a similar relationship with private companies –Kador
 - i. Kansas City sits as one of the top thirty cities in the world in terms of community foundational support. We are working on how to develop partnerships to take advantage of this fact. That is a good point. –Liu
 - g. We have difficulties explaining to the community who we are as a university. In the past, some person or group decided that we are the arts campus. You mentioned that we are an urban serving university. However, that is a big tent. We must further specify our place by narrowing it down to one or two things. If we do that, funding concerns will improve. –Morello
 - i. Right now, is the time to rethink our brand. By the end of November, we must be able to articulate this list. –Liu
4. Presentation w Q&A: --Provost Lundgren (25 minutes + 20 Q&A)
- a. I want to thank Senate for its hard work with the taskforces and teaching this semester. The purpose of this presentation concerns how we got from spring (end

of fiscal year '20) to now. It also illustrates the opportunities and challenges we will be facing over the next three to five years. If there is missing information, please let me know so I can reach out for clarification. -Lundgren

b. Right now, we have seen a dip in admissions. The situation may be worse next year. Is the administration planning for this in the FY '22 budget? -Fields

i. We are at a point where that is a heavy consideration, but we have not started to process the FY '22 budget. We are more focused on a good strategy for admissions. We are also focusing on engaging current students to make sure they finish their programs. -Lundgren

c. Concerning the recent COVID -19 spike, has there been discussion between the Faculty Senate and administration about the possibility of another shutdown after Thanksgiving? -Shiu

i. Senate already released a statement that we would support the administration concerning shutdowns after Thanksgiving. As far as we know, we are coming back after Thanksgiving. -Mardikes

d. Two leaders of the Student Government association contacted me wanting support for closing UMKC on election day. The executive committee met this morning and no one supported a full shutdown. However, we thought a flexible attendance policy for that day would work better. Also, a decision like this is not up to Faculty Senate. We sent the request on to the Provost and Chancellor and they seemed supportive about a flexible attendance day for faculty and students. -Mardikes

5. Adjournment

a. Motion Carries