

Senate Minutes
Tuesday, February 15th, 2022
3-5pm, ZOOM

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

ABSENT: Ferguson

GUESTS: Myers, Newby, Popoola, and Swink.

1. OPENING BUSINESS:

- a. Call to Order & Approval of February 1st, 2022 minutes – Grieco
 - i. Motion Passes
- b. Approval of Agenda – Grieco
 - i. Motion Passes

2. PRESENTATION:

- a. Enrollment and Recruitment Update – Doug Swink (40 minutes; 3:00 – 3:40)
 - i. Swink gave a Spring 2022 enrollment update. Undergrad enrollment is down by almost 5%. We're starting to work on a 'Return to UMKC' campaign to aggressively pursue those who dropped out and freshmen who never started. Bigger gains in enrollment came from international graduate students. Students of color attending college for the first time are up along with transfers. First time and transfer rates are up for hispanic/lation students. Our persistence is trending up about 2% over the years prior.
 - ii. Looking ahead to fall enrollment, we're down about 2.29% in applicants, by 1.52% on admissions and down 5.5% in acceptance rates. Transfer application rates are up but we're down in admits and acceptances. First time college applicants are down. On the bright side orientation registration trends are up 26.15%.
 - iii. We're expanding communications outreach via phone calls and texting. Thanks to those who have volunteered to make these calls. We're always looking for more volunteers.
 - iv. Financial aid reward offers were sent out earlier this year than ever before. Personalized financial aid video offers (with available spanish translation) will launch soon.
 - v. Housing is another critical issue. We're offering Roo housing grants to those in need. There's a new housing video that will be released soon.

Q: You said enrollment numbers are down, but total numbers are up according to the first and second slide. - Bhat

A: We're seeing a decrease in our undergraduate students. I think that might be the issue. - Swink

Q: We're seeing a large increase in international graduate school students. When you compare to pre-pandemic are we flat in that aspect or are we still increasing?
- Kador

A; I don't have that data today, but i can get it and will include it with today's powerpoint. - Swink

Comment: For engineering I believe we are still up even considering pre -- pandemic. It's a huge increase right now. - Fields

Q: To what extent are units responsible for improving their metrics if they're behind? Who is being held accountable? - Patterson

A I'm in talk with the provost on how to approach that. -S wink

Q My question was, in terms of tuition, do we get more from undergrads or grad students? - Bhat

A: I'll need to ask the finance office on how the model works. My thought is we probably make more off of undergrads depending on the program. - Swink.

Comment: The rise in international grad students is helpful. One of the reasons that has worked so well for engineering is that Dean Truman offers \$8,000 a year as the DISA Scholarship. A lot of those students have come from Asia. Last summer I was funded by the Carnegie association to travel to Africa and develop a pipeline of institutional linkage between several universities. In 2 years or less you'll be getting dozens of African students through this. 5-6 students are coming in the fall. The reason is their parents are administrators at those universities. I think it's time for what Dean Truman is doing to become a model for the whole universities. - Adegoke

A: I'll make sure that is brought up. Thank you. - Swink

Comment: If you have questions about the DISA Scholarship. I am very familiar with the details. They still pay more than domestic students even with the DISA. - Meyers

Q: From the Conservatory, we can't grow enrollment without an investment in our facilities. Have you talked to the chancellor about how the university's lack of investment affects enrollment and retention? - DeSimone

A: I haven't had a direct conversation but I can make sure it's brought up again. I'll make sure that continues to be a conversation. - Swink

Q: It seems like the great success story is the growth of the Latinx population. What about students of color not represented in your slide show? I'm curious about how Asian Americans and Arab American students are showing up. - Shiu

A: We're always looking at all underrepresented students. I'd be happy to adjust the powerpoint in the future so that it's more representative. We've tried to move the needle on supporting our marginalized students. - Swink

Comment: Doug: Thank you for your presentation. The growing population of Latinx students is growing particularly in KCK. - Torres

If you compare the percentage of African American students in our high schools with our enrollment, how well are we doing? - Bhat

A: I don't have that data on me but can get it and would be happy to share it. - Swink

Q: How much is room and board? - Kilway

A: It's around 10,000 over the year including food. - Swink

Q: The frustrating part is that we'll go through different cycles of increasing students in the following years. It's a hard case for you to make to ask for more resources. Is there anything we can do to assist in that message? - Kilway

A: We'll always have anomalies. It's really about putting our finger on how we can move the needle in the right direction. - Swink

BUSINESS CONTINUES ...

a. All Faculty Meeting (March 15th) – Grieco (5 minutes; 3:40 – 3:45)

i. The meeting is scheduled for March 15 from 3-5pm. President Choi, Chancellor Agrawal and provost Lundgren will be here. Questions need to be sent in advance. Please send questions to the executive committee to be compiled.

b. FSEC elections schedule 5 minutes – Grieco (5 minutes; 3:45 – 3:50)

i. On Feb 16 nominations will open. On March 14th, nominations will close. All faculty meeting is scheduled for March 15th, where candidates will make brief statements. On March 16th, voting begins. On April 4 the ballot will close. We will announce the winners on April 5.

Comment: Positions open: Chair (2 year term), Chair-Elect (3 year) term, IFC Rep (3 year term) - Leiter

c. UBC/FSBC Updates – Olsen (10 minutes; 3:50 – 4:00)

i. FSBC has been frustrated about the lack of financial info made available to them. We passed a resolution at our January meeting asking for complete relevant financial info in a timely way. We also discussed the release of financial info at the UBC. There will be quarterly financial reports released that will be used by both committees.

ii. The governor's budget has an increase to the appropriation of about 5%. We haven't had an increase like this in 30 years. However, that's still below the rate of inflation (7%)

li. There has been money pledged in the governor's budget for capital improvements for the school of medicine and dentistry.

lv. We're going to move toward tiered tuition. FS needs to be involved in that discussion.

Q: What's going to happen for undergraduates coming in undecided? - Kador

A: They would be included in one of the distinctions. It would be lower. - Olsen

Q: Would that replace departmental fees? - Kador

A: Yes - Olsen

Q: Have we received the full budget that was promised to us per our request as part of our evaluations of units and recommended cuts from the faculty senate from UMKC Forward? - Torres

A: We have not. - Olsen

Q: Will that be released to us? - Torres

A: We've received the report. The FSBC will be evaluating it at the next meeting and will bring a report to the next meeting. - Olsen

Comment: I'm worried we might be creating a barrier to entry by creating tiered tuition. Are we going to scare people off? - Kador

A: I would hope that the senate will play an active role in voicing this concern. I should also mention that there are differences in the cost of instruction that the administration is trying to address as well- Olsen

Comment: Karl: IIRC, we were told on IFC that this is a system-wide transition for all campuses. - Shiu

Comment: I'm worried tiered tuition is going to affect the flexibility of students. Perhaps if we looked at credit costs instead. The lack of flexibility concerns me. - Rigger-Piehl

Comment:

https://www.senate.mo.gov/21info/bts_web/bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=63945812 - Wellemeyer

Comment: I think I'm hearing a question for the all faculty meeting here. - Grieco

d. IFC Report – Leiter and Shiu (20 minutes; 4:00 – 4:20)

i. IFC received updates from two task forces. A meeting with President Choi is forthcoming.

ii. The UM-System is creating a coherent student pregnancy policy. It'll now be running out of the title IX office. IFC voiced concerns over sufficient resources to be applied and whether or not these guidelines apply to the partner as well.

iii, HR has declined to offer additional tuition deductions for families with dual UMKC spouses.

iv. Salary reduction task force will discuss revision to CRRs.

v. A proposed policy change from ASUM concerning making voting day class-free holidays.

Comment: Even basic software needs updates so frequently that faculty should have admin access. Right now, it takes 3-10 days for IT to get to a 5 second fix. Give it back, please. - Van Horn

Comment: Completely agree with David Van Horn. - Adegoke

Comment: Most faculty have not had administrative access to their computers though prior to this change. I think it would be important to learn how many faculty were affected by the change. - Riggers-Piehl

Comment: I agree with David as well - Wooten

Comment: The change will affect everyone getting a new computer going forward. There are currently ways of getting a waiver; it's not clear how that will continue. - Leiter

3. DISCUSSION:

a. Senate representation after reorganization reorganization – Kilway (30 minutes; 4:20 –4:50)

i. We've received some input on the organization. Proposal A has two senators per unit. Proposal B: has additional representatives proportioned by an additional factor.

Comment: I heard from my unit that people are interested in trying to account for the larger units. We also need to guarantee that NTTs are represented. I propose adding a minimum number of NTT senators. - Shiu

Comment: The senate is the representative body of the faculty, not the school. With that in mind I would encourage that the representation in the senate reflects the number of faculty rather than the number of units. - Olsen

Comment: A proposal from SBCS: Item 1: Potential language for the Senate SOP [Not sure if the CRR is another possible place for any changes besides specifying the units and numbers]: Number of Senators. 1. At least two per academic unit represented in the senate and two from the libraries. 2. If an academic unit's number of faculty exceeds 50 members then the number of Senate representatives may be increased to be commensurate with: A) Number of faculty; B) Diversity of Divisions being represented; and C) Ratio of TT/NTT 3. The number of representatives greater than 2 is determined jointly by the proposing unit, the FSEC, and the senate. Each academic unit and the FSEC periodically review the unit faculty numbers and representative numbers and invite or propose changes as needed. - Van Horn

Q: For David, where did you get 50 from? - Leiter

A:- Historically, 50 has been the number. - Van Horn

Comment: I concur with Anthony to help with NTT representation. - Patterson

Comment: I agree with Mark and appreciate Anthony's comment on NTT faculty. The School of Medicine (which Karl and I represent) has an extremely large number of NTT faculty. I am an NTT faculty member. - Wooten

Comment: We discussed this last week. We have no specific proposal, but the meeting was supportive of proportional representation. - Adegoke

Comment: [Separately] Item 2: Proposed: that the new SSE has five (5) senators starting in Academic Year 2023 (starting Aug. 1, 2022). The number requested is guided by the principles outlined in the previous item: A) faculty >50; B) four senators based on Division diversity and C) one for NTT balance. To be determined jointly by the present senators, the FSEC, and the senate. The exact apportionment of the senators in SSE will be determined by the organizing documents of the SSE Faculty. - Van Horn

Comment: Another issue about the NTT representation is to inquire about who are the NTTs that can help with the service load. We need to be mindful of the capacity of their NTTs contribution. - Grieco

Comment: Borrowing from MSU, I propose that we have representation of regular faculty in academic units. Additionally, we have a seat for each faculty rank and other kinds of faculty. Instructors, lecturer and senior instructors, each of those seats nominate a representative for each. Those nominees are in a general election. - Wellemeyer

Comment: UMKC voting faculty have to be .75FTE or higher—benefit eligible. - Mardikes

Comment: Voting Faculty -- For purposes of campus- and University-wide elections, those individuals eligible to vote shall consist of all tenured and tenure track and all full-time, ranked and unranked, non-tenure track faculty, including Librarians I, II, III and IV; as defined in Section 310.035A of the Collected Rules and Regulations, provided that the individual is .75 FTE or greater and holds an appointment of at least nine (9) months duration. - Wellemeyer

Comment: I thought the MS system was interesting. I find that represented by rank to be complicated. But I do like that the NTT faculty and tenure track can elect their rep from each unit. Also, using buckets of faculty to set senators' numbers seems reasonable to me. - Keeton

Comment: In my observations, it seems that it is a struggle to get faculty to run for senate. I think the less we complicate the process, the better. - Hunt

Comment: One of the School of Education's concern is recruiting faculty senators to fill the larger number of seats - Riggers-Piehl

Comment: So here is a titbit that should crack you guys up. In the British academic tradition, Senate membership is based on academic rank and only full professors are eligible. In fact, the Senate is essentially a College of all full professors at the university. Nigeria, where I started my academic career over 30 years ago, has moved to the American course unit system but retained the British elitist Senate representation model. - Adegoke

Comment: We need to consider the commitment and the amount of info that needs to be brought to units. FS is a big commitment. Absentee senators would not be helpful either. - Grieco

Comment: Bill's suggestion to require all units to permit their NTT faculty to vote for that unit's senators would give the NTT voice. Although it wouldn't guarantee that any NTT faculty members are voted to be on the Senate, it is not unlikely that some NTT would naturally get elected. We have several NTT Senators now, in fact. If we had confidence in that that would be normal that NTT would become Senators, we could keep it simple without having all these categories of votes. (I like what Jamie had to say about how simplicity is good here.) - Lynch

Comment: We envision a situation where the units ask to raise their representation based on their individual needs for diverse representation, after we've settled on a number. - Turla

Comment: zoom-based meetings may help clinical faculty representation. esp with our faculty who are often off site at clinics - Patterson

Comment: I also really like Dani's proposal however, which guarantees NTT representation (even in a small way).- Riggers-Piehl

Comment: In SoNHS, we allot one senate spot for a TT faculty and one for NTT. We don't do it by department. In fact, both SoNHS reps are not nursing faculty but Health Sciences. - Hunt

Comment: The proposal idea above is open, so that the size of the Senate doesn't get too big, and that the units themselves have the autonomy to 'select' what suits them. The representation of NTT varies by unit, but is fairly open. - Van Horn

Comment: (personally) I really like David's initial proposal. - Riggers-Piehl

Comment: With 635 voting faculty, and 25 current senators, that's 25.4 faculty per senator. - Mardikes

5. ADJOURNMENT

i. Motion passes.