

Senate Minutes  
Tuesday, September 21st , 2021  
3-5pm, ZOOM

PRESENT: Present: Grieco, Kilway, Turla, Van Horn, Kador, Shiu, DeSimone, Ferguson, Mardikes, Keeton, Bethman, Grimes, Wellemeyer, Ball, Boots, Lynch, Gottman, Hunt, Chatterjee, Torres, Thompson, Maher, Olsen, Riggers-Piehl, Patterson, Adegoke, and Leiter.

EXCUSED: Morello, Wooten, and Bhat

ABSENT: Davis, Zhu, and Fields

GUESTS: Popoola, Hankins, Newby, McNeley, and Murphy

1. OPENING BUSINESS:

- a. Call to Order & Approval of September 7th, 2021 minutes – Grieco
  - i. motion carries
- b. Approval of Agenda – Grieco
  - i. motion carries
- c. Senators' Accomplishments & Introductions - Grieco
  - i. Grieco congratulates Amanda Grimes for being selected as a 2021/2022 presidential engagement fellow.
  - iii. Grieco acknowledges John Ball from the School of Dentistry, Jimmy Adegoke (CAS), Michelle Maher (SOE), and Tiffani Riggers-Piehl as new senators.

2. PRESENTATION:

- a. UMKC Essentials Implementation – VP McNeley (40 minutes; 3:05 – 3:45)
  - i. McNeley provided an update on the FSE experience. UMKC students currently have two options to complete their common requirements. We feel that the curriculum didn't speak to the mission and the way we want to interact with students.
  - ii. There is a robust assessment plan in place. Phase 1, starting in 2020-2021, was heavy on written communication. In Phase II (starting 2021-2022), we are looking at Math, Oral Communication and Critical Thinking in the Arts & Humanities; Natural and Physical sciences. Phase III (starting in 2022-2023) will focus on Written Communication, Culture & Diversity, and Civic Engagement.
  - iii. Taking feedback from FSE course evaluations, we've been working on clarifying course content and structure.
  - iv. Feedback from focus groups and comments have shown us that some students struggle to understand the role of academic advising. They found the three component course structure to be confusing. We heard that students had

hoped small group faculty mentors would be more aligned with their academic interests. Impact experiences need to be tied to students' academic and career interests. There needs to be more face to face events on campus while still providing online experiences.

v. Lookin at Fall 2021 delivery, we wanted to be able to return to the fully implemented instructional team. We expanded the FSE faculty mentors to more align with students' academic interests. And we've requested academic programs for impact experiences.

vi. The first 6 weeks of the class we are orienting students to the tools that they'll use as a student. Faculty mentors are a key continuity piece to this experience, but we pull in other advisors to supplement that experience. At week 7, the FSE course will transition into very strong faculty/mentor academic discussions.

vii. We had a lot of conversations about English comp classes. We wanted a review committee that represents all the disciplines. Our students more than exceeded the baseline target for english 110. The goal was to have 50% at level three or higher. Our quality assurance efforts are important as we move forward lookin at natural sciences, social sciences and the Arts and Humanities.

Q: I represent the conservatory. The first 6 weeks of class are taught by academic advisors and not faculty and that concerns me. Who is delivering the course content for those first 6 weeks? - DeSimone

A: The course content is related to tools the students will be utilizing while planning their academic careers. The academic advisors are taking the lead in those discussions because of their expertise. - McNeley

Comment: 6 weeks of a 16 week course being taught by a non-instructor concerns me. They don't have the training that those with teaching credentials do. I find this inappropriate. Faculty need to be involved throughout the entire process. - DeSimone

Comment: The small group discussions are 50 minutes of the curriculum delivered each week. While the majority of that is delivered by our faculty. One hour a week is an asynchronous lecture component. The second hour is the small group discussions brought in by academic advisors. The other hour is expected to be students electing to participate in a variety of activities and then reflect on them. - McNeley

Q: Are we reviewing writing intensive courses now? - Kilway

A: No, I was only noting that we are charged at the state to evaluate writing competency over all and that you contribute to that in your programs. - McNeley

Q: Do you have enough people volunteering to cover these classes? - Kilway

A: We are currently struggling to staff in the natural science and critical thinking areas. - McNeley

Q: Could we get a refresher of the alignments between the SLOs? Unless we get it right we're going to have to do it over and over again. Could we have meetings on the subject? - Grieco

A: We're happy to have a wide variety of conversations on the subject. - McNeley

Comment: It would be helpful to offer meetings at the new school for us. -Torres

Comment: Please know we have an assessment fellow named Billy Anderson, part of CAFE is working on it. That plan is moving forward. Please don't hesitate to call and ask for additional support. - McNeley

Q: It's been surprising to me that the critical thinking in the social sciences classes are typically being staffed by people outside of the social sciences. Is there anything we can do about that? -Olsen

A: HLC credentialing applies. I would love to have more teachers of the class from your department. - McNeley

Comment: I tried to set up a course this year but was told that they had already met their objectives and it wasn't needed. - Olsen

Comment: I would love to see you put that course through in the next academic year. - McNeley

Comment: I'm a fan of the program. But I've found that submitting courses through the curriculum program to be an unorganized disaster. It took a lot of time for a lot of people. Hopefully there can be adjustments made to the process because the process was more hindrance than a help. -DeSimone

Comment: I will follow up on this with you offline. - McNeley

b. Campus Safety – Officer Philip Murphy (20 minutes; 3:45 – 4:05)

i. Officer Murphy noted that we're on campus more than we were in the previous year and would like to run through some key things about the department. We're located at 5005 Oak St. Our phone number is 816-235-1515.

ii. Our department is staffed 365 days a year, 24/7. The department has 28 state certified police officers, including members with \_\_\_\_\_ training.

iii. We patrol the Volker and Hospital Hill campuses by vehicle, foot and bike when the weather permits. We respond to all calls for service. We actively patrol the buildings and streets. We offer personal safety escorts, jumpstarts and will help unlock cars.

iv. We offer property registration, hostile intruder training, safety presentations, fingerprinting (\$20 per card) and a free women's self defense course.

v. Officer Murphy offered some safety tips. He suggested using the buddy system, walking in well-lit areas, keeping your keys in hand, crossing the street if you think you're being followed, walking confidently, knowing your surroundings, not letting strangers use your phone and reporting all suspicious cars, people and activities.

vi. In order to build safety on campus, the Department suggests keeping office doors locked at all times, keeping windows secured, reporting defective locks and doors to appropriate staff, making sure your keyring does not identify you or your office location, not letting strangers follow you into buildings and reporting all suspicious cars, people and activities.

vii. To maintain vehicle safety on campus, the Department suggests parking in well-lit areas, keeping your vehicle secure at all times, keeping your bag and valuables out of view. If you feel like you're being followed, pull into a well-lit populated area. Never leave your valuables unattended.

viii. You can contact the Police Department via cell phone, campus phone, the emergency blue phones scattered across campus. UMKC alert systems are sent through text, email and phone call.

ix. Our Rave Guardian App allows you to communicate with friends and family, to set a safety timer, to send messages to the police department and to send pictures to the police department. It also provides gps coordinates to umkcpd from your phone if available. This will decrease response time when locating you.

x. Catalytic converter thefts have climbed in the last few years. They are made of value metals that are going for high rates right now. In order to combat this manufacturers are doing serial number stamping and vin tracking. Scrap metal dealers are being limited in their buying and selling via legislation. You can take personal safety measures by parking in secured areas, setting alarms, purchasing aftermarket devices and motion sensor lighting.

xi. The number of catalytic converters being stolen on campus is much lower than the greater Kansas City area. The department is constantly patrolling and monitoring campus. If you see something suspicious please call us.

Q: Thank you for your presentation. The cameras that face the southern border of the Hospital Hill Campus have cameras that don't work and with poor placement. - Kador

A: The camera's are not under the department's purview, but they are updating the system. We have a new system we're installing soon and if you have suggestions for camera placement please send those suggestions to me. - Murphy

Q Do people need to come to the department for property registration? - Riggers-Piehl

A: You can do all of that online from our website. - Murphy

Q: Should we be registering university computers? - Mardikes

A: University property should already be registered. - Murphy

Comment: I ran a book drive at the end of the last academic year. I brought several boxes of books onto campus on a Saturday or Sunday. I moved all 6 or 7 boxes by myself. Towards the end of the process an officer pulled up to me and watched from his car without approaching. He eyed me suspiciously before driving away. Just because it doesn't look right doesn't mean something isn't right. And that is something I'd like you to acknowledge when giving presentations like this in the future. - Adegoke

c. Accommodations for COVID-19 Cases – Jamie Hunt, School of Nursing and Health Sciences (15 minutes; 4:05 – 4:20)

i. Senator Hunt had an issue where a student emailed the Friday before class asking to be online/in person exemption. This is an unreasonable accommodation. They sent it over to affirmative action. We had to speak with lawyers. Hunt is concerned about who is making these decisions.

Comment: The expectation to "just record it" is unrealistic. It takes special rooms to record both the teacher and the class's interaction. - Grieco

Comment: I think the faculty need a voice with provost on granting these accommodations as well. - Hunt

Comment: We should be involved. It feels like the provost isn't voicing anything. - Greico

Comment: That might be a HIPAA violation. But we should have Scott Laurent in to speak on this matter as well. - Kilway

Comment: I'm having similar issues. One of the bigger challenges we're having at the university is that we haven't been able to make the structural changes necessary. Part of this problem is that the provost office is unable to get the equipment because it's not available. I'm sympathetic to that but it's difficult to create a hybrid class when you plan for in-person. More flexibility from the provost office letting us turn out classes online could help. -Riggers-piehl

Comment: I thought we were told by the provost that classes were not going to be forced to provide hybrid classes.. - Mardikes

Comment: I was able to put together a hybrid class because I had enough time to do so. I had to use my personal equipment in order to run it. Accommodating everybody with the hybrid learning seemed to decrease my in-class participation numbers. - Van Horn

Comment: I thought we were told by the provost that classes were NOT going to be forced to provide hybrid. - Patterson

Q: Are there studies that show if flexible modality is creating a better learning experience for our students? - Grieco

Comment: Another problem of course is the required training to teach online. Those of us who took courses last summer (2020) may not be fully certified to teach online because they keep changing what kinds of classes we need for online certification. So how do we do that in Week 4 of the semester when the student is asking for an online/hyflex experience. - DeSimone

Comment: I carry in my own laptop and wireless mic when I have to do both face-to-face and Zoom. completely agree on the drop in live attendance if you start posting lectures - Mardikes

### 3. DISCUSSION:

#### a. Inclusive Hiring Practices – Follow up - Kilway

i. We want to start a general discussion that will continue in further meetings.- Kilway

Comment. I found it to be valuable information. I'd recommend anybody doing a hire to watch the video of Luke Wood speaking on the subject. - Torres

Comment: Luke wood's concept of inclusion advocates intrigues me. How are these inclusion advocates being imagined? We should consider the power dynamic involved. - Shiu

Q: Is there something at the university level where people can apply for assistance? - Hunt

A: In prior executive committee meetings with the task force, there seemed to be more support, but we don't know how it's going to be dispersed. Could senate provide guidelines on what we expect of inclusion advocates as faculty during the hiring process?

Comment: I was on a faculty search his summer that was one of the first supported by the team. Their support was robust and concrete. Their future plans involve more post-hiring support. - Wellemeyer

Comment: The last time we had faculty advocates I kept hearing negatives from people involved from both sides. I don't think it was clear for everyone participating what the role of the advocate was and how to deal with the group dynamics. - Torres

Comment: I went through the hiring process this summer too. The provost office has done excellent work, but how do we continue on with members who can

dedicate the time and effort to be successful. We need to lay out a good foundation if we want the program to be successful. -Grieco

Q: Was there a large increase in time when dealing with this new committee?

The process is already drawn out and we don't want it to feel like a burden to those involved. Suggestions from this process I'd received in the past were often a cynical list of non-qualified applicants - Kador

A: The new approach has changed. I think it's rolling out nicely. - Kilway

#### 4. ADJOURNMENT

i. Motion carries.