

Faculty Senate Minutes

Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Faculty Commons (Newcomb Hall)

Faculty Senate Members:

Present:

Belcher, Bethman, Brown, Dallas, Ferguson, Ganesh, Hunter, Jackson, Johnson, Keeton, Leal, Lynch, Markides, Mukherji, Niemi, Olsen, Petermann, Pluta, Riggers-Piehl, Shiu, Smirnova, Smith, Torres, Turla, Weber, Wellemeyer

Excused: Bloemker, White-Lewis, Wooten

Absent: Gottman, Likins, Song

Ex Officio Members:

Staff Council: Julie Meyer

Senate GA: Milton Gomez

Guests:

Michelle Smith, Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Forest Pavel, Director of Counseling

1. Opening Business: Shiu

- a. Call to Order & Approval of 10/03/2023 minutes; motion passes.
- b. Approval of Agenda for 10/17/2023; motion passes.
- c. Announcements: Shiu

The university will not make a formal announcement about Hamas and Israel. Anne Spenner, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Marketing and Communications, sent an email regarding UMKC policy, which will be posted on the Faculty Senate's Canvas site.

Please review the PowerPoint from President Choi regarding 2023 student admissions and retention figures across the UM System campuses that was sent via email.

2. University Budget Committee (UBC) Update: Olsen

- a. Tuition rates have increased. UMKC is operating at a surplus with tuition increase and additional state funding. A 6% operating surplus is expected in 2024.
- b. St. Joseph Medical School Education Building is being built with \$14.5 million dollars with \$13 million in federal funds and \$1.5 million in state funds.
- c. Ongoing expansion of the Health Sciences Campus (\$120 million).
- d. There is a new partnership with KC Chiefs.
- e. A renovation proposal for the fourth floor of the Miller Nichols Library and Atterbury Student Success Center has been presented to the Board of Curators.

- f. Student retention is doing well. Enrollment overall has decreased slightly, with a greater decrease in graduate programs. There has been an increase in undergraduate student enrollment although tuition has increased.
- g. Resource Investment Model (RIM): Under the stated framework of the RIM model, each unit's budget is based on performance (a.k.a. "You keep what you kill"). This Budget model is no longer operating and was never fully used. Administration is moving to the previous model: educational operations expenses and allocation of funds are done strategically depending on the needs of each unit.
- h. Faculty numbers: NTT numbers have increased. This number is going to keep increasing due to early retirements. The Provost has been "strategically" reallocating those TT rather than replace TT lines in departments after faculty have left or retired.
- i. Full university budget information is accessible under the MO Sunshine Law for public review.
- j. Senate needs to understand the maintenance plans to know how much each unit prioritizes and spends in maintenance.
- k. Given there will be a surplus, the Senate should advocate for the maintenance/cleaning of some facilities as well as accessibility to buildings and offices.
- l. The senators were prompted to generate ideas for one-time expenditures given the surplus.

3. Dr. Forest Pavel: Shiu introduces to Dr. Pavel, the new UMKC Director of Counseling. He talked about his academic background as a Clinical Psychologist. Counseling is located on the second floor of UMKC Student Services.

- a. The counseling team has 4 Doctoral-level psychologists and 2 Masters-level psychologists. 6 psychology interns/practicum students. Almost 12 providers/professionals.
- b. Providers make accommodations to keep students' confidentiality.
- c. A new social worker is going to be hired. This person will be hired under the new care plan. Everything is in flux depending on meeting UMKC's needs.
- d. Providers are assessing information and data to meet the demand.
- e. Early intervention is better. If a student is experiencing anxiety and/or panic attacks due to academic stress, he/she/they should seek help at 816-235-1000.
- f. UMKC Connect is a good strategy to track students' development.
- g. Students and faculty outreach about behavioral issues in different departments is important. What are some unique stressors within departments?
- h. Students have self-determination. Therefore, they choose to engage or not to engage.
- i. It's important to provide students with empathy, but they need to be ready to seek treatment.
- j. There were some questions about the impact of COVID in terms of mental health. They don't have data pertaining to UMKC, but there are data related to high schoolers who had to transition to an in-person schedule and who have experienced anxiety and difficulty adjusting.
- k. Canvas and UMKC Connect are great tools to keep track of students' academic performance. Faculty should flag those students who seem to be having difficulty meeting deadlines and submitting work. Students don't need to know Faculty raised a flag but faculty can share they are concerned because they want their students to succeed.

- l. Dr. Arnie Abels is on the Hospital Hill campus on Tuesdays.
- m. Important to reach out to the Care team if faculty notices behavioral changes in students.
- n. Faculty can “walk” students who have suicidal thoughts to the Counseling Center between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Call campus police (816) 235-1515 if a student claims he/she/they is/are going to commit suicide.

4. Senate Committees: Volunteers and Nominations–Mardikes

a. Faculty Senate Academic Issues Committee (FSAIC)

Nominees: Andrew Smith, Pharmacy & Alan Weber, Bloch

Needs: 7 members from a broad selection of schools, staggered terms (3 new members/year)

Rules: 1 Senator required; chair must be a Senator (or may be a continuing appointment); 9 ranked faculty members “from a broad selection of schools”; staggered 3-year terms; 3 new members/year

b. Faculty Senate National Awards Committee (FNSAC)

Needs: 2-3 tenured full professors “from a variety of academic disciplines”; 1 of the new members will need to serve as chair; staggered terms (1-2 new members/year)

Rules: 1 Senator required; chair must be a Senator (or may be a continuing appointment); 9 ranked faculty members “from a broad selection of schools”; staggered 3-year terms; 3 new members/year

c. Faculty Senate Committee for Preliminary Informal Conference

Nominee: Andrew Bergerson, SHSS

Needs: 2 T/TT members & 1 NTT member; staggered terms

Rules: 1 Senator required; chair must be a Senator; 4 tenured/TT members & 1 NTT member; at least 2 members from the Volker campus and 1 member from Hospital Hill campus; staggered 3-year terms; 1-2 new members/year

d. Parking and Traffic Committee

Needs: 1 Senator (3-year term)

Rules: 1 Senator recommendation needed; approved by Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration.

Shiu urged Senators to participate in these committees and to encourage other colleagues to be part of these committees because shared governance depends on faculty participation..

8. Executive Session.