

UMKC Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Meeting 7 October 2014, 3:00—5:00 pm

Plaza Room, Administrative Center (Volker Campus)

Present: Peggy Ward-Smith, Kathleen Kilway, Buddy Pennington, Carole McArthur, Burton Dunbar, Laurie Ellinghausen, Viviana Grieco, Nathan Oyler, David Van Horn, Dee Anna Hiett, Roger Pick, Marilyn Taylor, Ed Gogol, Jerry Wyckoff, Gregory King, Yugi Lee, Connie White, Carolyn Barber, Jacob Marszalek, Christopher Holman, Tarak Srivastava, Michael Wacker, Eduardo Abreu, Margaret Brommelsiek, Orisa Igwe, Brenda Dingley, Susan Sykes Berry, Jacqueline Hawkins

Absent: Sean O'Brien

Excused: Nancy Stancel, Zach Shemon, Mark Johnson

Guests: Gail Hackett (Provost), Tony Luppino (Professor, School of Law, Chair of Faculty Senate Budget Committee), Devon Cancilla (Vice Provost for Online Learning)

Welcome and Announcements

Chair Ward-Smith welcomed Orisa Igwe as a new Senator from the School of Pharmacy. The other School of Pharmacy position remains open.

Senator Pennington (Libraries) reported that the subscription agent used by the UMKC libraries to consolidate journal subscriptions, Swets, announced bankruptcy protection in late September. UMSL and MU libraries also used this company. The three campus libraries are working with system procurement and legal on next steps. Currently, system legal has advised the libraries to take no action.

There have been two COACHE presentations to faculty and the committee has received nice feedback from faculty.

The faculty feedback portion of the Dean evaluations for Computing and Engineering, Conservatory, and Law will begin next week via SurveyMonkey.

The campus hiring committee continues to do its work reviewing requests to fill open positions. Chair Ward-Smith indicated that the committee feels this review process has helped units review positions prior to filling them. But she admitted it has resulted in more paperwork. Senator Ellinghausen (A&S) asked if this committee was responsible for changes in e-Hiring for graduate students. No, that is a process change with PeopleSoft and is managed by Human Resources.

The cost savings due to the campus hiring committee are hard to quantify, but Chair Ward-Smith indicated that the overall personnel spending rate has slowed.

Faculty representatives for the Committee on Research Integrity need to be elected by the faculty of their respective units prior to the October 21 Senate meeting.

Approval of Agenda/ Minutes

Motion to move agenda item 4 (US News and World Report – Gail Hackett) to end of the agenda passed. Revised agenda approved.

Provost/Chancellor Comments

None.

Campus Committee on Tenure

There is a need for Senate to fill the roster for a Campus Committee on Tenure to hear a dismissal for cause case. The regulations around this are CRR 310.050 and CRR 310.060. Currently the Faculty Senate lacks a section on the Campus Committee on Tenure within its Standard Operating Procedures. Article IV.2.A. of the Senate Standard Operating Procedures refer to CRR 310.050 B.1., but for the campus promotion & tenure advisory committee. Consensus was that that committee is not the same as the Campus Committee on Tenure. These are two separate committees.

Therefore, the Senate currently lacks guidelines for a Campus Committee on Tenure. To satisfy CRR B.1., Senate voted to use Article IV.2.A. to serve as the guidelines for the Campus Committee on Tenure. To expedite the process, Senate agreed that units should hold elections prior to the October 21 Senate meeting. The Standard Operating Procedures will be revised afterward.

IFC Update

The Board of Curators ratified CRR changes (200.010 and 200.020) to revise the student code of conduct to strengthen Title IX compliance. Even though these were ratified and are now official, President Wolfe expressed a willingness to amend them based on faculty and student feedback. Senators should review these drafts with their faculty and replay feedback to the IFC reps, Carole McArthur (Dentistry) and Nancy Stancel (Law Library).

During the discussion, it was announced that the Chancellor had issued an email regarding Title IX that announced Jeff Traiger as the interim UMKC Title IX Coordinator. Senators expressed concerns with this choice. Vice-chair Kilway asked Senators to relay feedback to the Provost.

IFC is working toward adopting a new policy addressing evaluation of the ability to work for faculty. A draft was shared with Senators and Chair Ward-Smith encouraged Senators to review the draft with faculty in their units and provide feedback to our IFC reps, Carole McArthur (Dentistry) and Nancy Stancel (Law Library).

University Budget Committee Task Force Report on Campus Budget Model

Tony Luppino, Professor, School of Law, current chair of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee, and a member of the University Budget Committee, reported on a draft report from a University Budget Committee task force, the Budget Model Review Subcommittee, charged with conducting an overall review of the campus budget model. The report was distributed to Faculty Senate prior to the meeting.

Tony provided a brief history of the budget model. The current budget model was created under the direction of former Chancellor Guy Bailey. The model was developed and vetted by many constituencies before its adoption in 2008. Documentation related to the budget model can be found on the University Budget Committee site:

<http://www.umkc.edu/provost/committees/university-budget/default.asp>.

The budget model allocates funding to the academic units as follows. First, it allocates net tuition to the 11 principle academic units with guidelines for handling cross-unit instruction and scholarship attribution. Tony noted that the budget model includes

express language designed to tailor tuition attribution to facilitate interdisciplinary education. After net tuition attribution the model then allocates the UMKC State Appropriation first to certain “off the top” strategic allocations designated by the Missouri Legislature or the Chancellor, and the remainder (the bulk of the State Appropriation) to the 11 principal academic units based on a general formula of student credit hours weighted by a discipline-based cost of instruction factor. It should be noted that supplemental student fees and grant funding fall outside the budget model.

After the allocations to the units are made, the units then pay a share into the General Overhead Assessment (GOA) that supports central administration and support units, including, among others, facilities management and the libraries. The budget model provides metrics to determine a unit’s share of this assessment. These metrics are generally based on use of these services, with items not reasonable susceptible to usage measures charged under a “default rule” of ratio of Total Current Funds Expenditures by the units.

This model is intended to incentivize tuition growth within the units as the State Appropriation is hard to predict and has been shrinking over the last six or so years. Results have been mixed for a variety of reasons. The University Budget Committee has recommend (as it is merely an advisory body) and the Chancellor has made adjustments to the budget model on a case-by-case basis since its implementation in 2008. This report represents the first comprehensive review—a process expressly contemplated by the budget model text.

A Senator noted that the Deans are responsible if their unit budget runs in the red, but asked who is responsible if an administrative or support unit does the same. The University Budget Committee receives a report with the end-of-the-year balances for all units and can follow up with specific units regarding significant deficits or surpluses. For example, they followed up with Parking Services when that unit showed a sizable surplus and learned the surplus was needed for upcoming maintenance projects. The UBC also reviews the proposed list of support function components and dollars of GRA proposed to be paid over by the academic units through the GOA and asks questions regarding trends/changes in that connection.

The University Budget Committee has done two benchmarking studies to determine how the proportion of administrative costs to overall university costs aligns with peer institutions and in both cases, UMKC fell within the range of our peer institutions. However, an in-depth review of the operating budgets of the administrative and support units has not been done—though it was noted that a proposal for the UBC to take on an annual review of operating expense budgets had been put forth early on in the UBC’s deliberations, but was rejected. Provost Hackett noted that in previous years, budget cuts were absorbed by central administration to protect the academic units. Tony Luppino agreed that the recent cuts (since the budget model phase-in began) had indeed fallen largely on the central administrative/support units.

Both Provost Hackett and Tony Luppino agreed that the biggest problem is that the overall operating revenues are not large enough to support everything the university does in the manner we’d like.

The issue of the “true up” (of net tuition) was raised in both the task force report and in the Senate discussion. The issue is that there is a gap in projected tuition and actual net tuition allocated to the academic units. This issue manifests itself in two ways. First, if a unit decreases student credit hours there is a lag before the net tuition allocation to that unit is adjusted. So, in effect, they receive more money than they “earned” for that year. Likewise, if a unit increases student credit hours, there is a delay before the tuition allocation catches up to support the growth within the unit. The university is working to decrease the lag in both cases, but this is not an easy thing to fix.

Another issue is athletics. This is a sizable budget item within the General Overhead Assessment. The Chancellor has verbalized a five-year plan to cut this allocation in half, but it was noted that the allocation for this year was unchanged. Senators requested that the Provost ask the Chancellor to establish a starting year for the five-year plan.

Senator Wyckoff (Biological Sciences) stressed that the School of Biological Sciences is in very dire straits. They have lost twenty faculty positions since the implementation of the budget model in 2008. The GRA allocated to SBS under the budget model does not adequately support that unit. When Sen. Wyckoff stated his concerns, Provost Hackett pointed out that two Deans discussed the issue of a lack of support under the new budget model within a year of its implementation: Dr. Witte (Conservatory) and Dr. Dreyfus (SBS),

and the Chancellor decided to address the issues of the Conservatory and NOT SBS. Prof. Luppino noted that the current budget split is not sufficient to support SBS as it currently operates, and that, as SBS representatives were aware, he had suggested several times that a full study of why that is—of the type done when the GRA allocated to the Conservatory under the was found insufficient for its operations—be done to determine if there should be special funding for SBS or a change in its operations. He noted that such a study had been deferred in view of the SBS-SOM merger discussions and he was concerned with that delay. He also noted that the discussed SBS-SOM merger was something Chancellor Morton said was on his agenda at the Faculty Senate meeting at the beginning of this semester. As the budget discussion left many issues relating to SBS and SOM on the table because of the potential merger issue, this was a critical point. It was also discussed that the recommendation to change the tuition split for SOM and SBS/A&S would likely benefit the two schools who teach the majority of the undergraduate classes for the 6-year med program.

Concerns were also raised about the operational costs for new building projects and debt service related to those projects. Chair Ward-Smith offered to invite Bob Simmons to a future meeting to provide more information on this. Tony Luppino mentioned that the Faculty Senate Budget Committee and University Budget Committee had several years ago worked out a Major Capital Projects Report that Bob Simmons has used in the past in reporting on major construction project proposals to the UBC and the Facilities Advisory Committee—a report covering such items as the purpose of the construction; how it was to be funded; what opportunities it was being prioritized ahead of; and what the projected effects on UMKC's operating expenses budget would be. He suggested that a new round of those reports should be requested.

Tony asked Senators to share the draft report with their faculty. Feedback and questions can be provided to him or Provost Hackett to pass on to the University Budget Committee's Budget Model Review Subcommittee for consideration before it finalizes its Report and Recommendations to the UBC.

Online Course Descriptions

Devon Cancilla, Vice Provost for Online Learning, attended the meeting to address questions related to the new online course descriptions presented at the September 2 meeting and discussed at the September 16 meeting.

Questions were raised due to confusion around student fees for these courses. Vice Provost Cancilla indicated that plans were being prepared to request an online course fee. Specifics were lacking, though Vice Provost Cancilla noted that students in online courses needed access to online services such as tutoring, mentoring, enrollment support, technical support, etc. Current on campus services in these areas are not adequate for online courses.

The fees proposal is still in the planning stages, but there is a need to go ahead and adopt the online course descriptions now to improve how online courses are described to our students.

Senate voted to approve the definitions:

Instructor-Led Online Asynchronous Course: Teaching and learning activities occur online through the use of a variety of eLearning technologies and resources. The course has no required real-time (synchronous) interactions between instructor and students. The course is characterized by regular and substantive asynchronous online interactions between course instructor and course participants. There are defined deadlines for completion of assignments and other course related activities.

Instructor-Led Online Synchronous Course: Teaching and learning activities occur online through the use of a variety of eLearning technologies and resources. The course has required real-time (synchronous) interactions between instructor and students, usually through the use of online conferencing tools. The course is characterized by regular and substantive online interactions between course instructor and course participants which occur both synchronously and asynchronously. There are defined deadlines for completion of assignments and other course related activities.

Instructor-Led Blended or Hybrid Course: A portion of the teaching and learning activities of a traditionally face-to-face course is replaced by online learning activities and interactions using a variety of eLearning technologies and resources. These activities can occur in real-time (synchronously) or asynchronously. There are defined deadlines for completion of assignments and other course related activities.

Adjournment

Senate adjourned at 5:00 p.m.