

UMKC Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

21 January 2014

Room 238 Student Success Center (Volker Campus)

Hosted by the Office of Student Affairs

Present: Abreu, Barber, Bethman, Dilks, Flowers, Gardner, Gerkovich, Grieco, Igwe, Kilway, Kumar, McArthur, McCall, O'Brien, Pennington, Plamann, Schweitzberger, Solose, Stancel, Sykes Berry, Van Horn, Ward-Smith, Wyckoff

Excused: Ellinghausen, Luppino, Petrie, Taylor

Absent: Richardson, Rydberg-Cox, Srivastava, Van de Liefvoort, White

Guests: Mel Tyler (Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment), Kim McNeley (Associate Vice Provost for University College and Undergraduate Advising), Gail Hackett (Provost), Bonnie Postlethwaite (Dean of Libraries)

Welcome and Announcements (Peggy Ward-Smith, Chair)

Senator Ward-Smith welcomed the senators to the meeting and expressed the Senate's appreciation toward the Office of Student Affairs for hosting the meeting in the Student Success Center and providing refreshments.

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

Agenda approved. November 19 minutes approved.

Provost Comments

A search committee for the School of Medicine is being formed and nominations are welcome. A search committee is also being put together for a new dean for the Honors College.

FAS Replacement (Bonnie Postlethwaite, Dean of Libraries)

Faculty participation is needed to implement the new platform to replace the current Faculty Accomplishment System (FAS). The system selected is through the company Data180 and the product is Faculty180. Graduate students can also be put into this system. Faculty should inform the implementation committee of their needs so that the data elements that should be included can be identified. The system will do data feeds with faculty information from Human Resources. Enrollment data can go in as well as accomplishments for accreditation. Another feature will be the ability to automatically generate a web page to report information about the faculty including classes, credentials, etc. But some data will be private at the individual level. At the departmental level information can be displayed. Ideally there will be funding to hire temporary student workers to do manual data entry and clean up. This system will ideally be running at some point in the summer. There will either be a single database to include the entire UM system or there will be four separate databases for the different campuses.

Welcome from Mel Tyler, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs and Enrollment

The Student Success Center is in its second year of operation. The building is a result of conversations that took place during the strategic planning process. Students surveyed said that they would like the different campus services to be consolidated into

one building where they could interact with the faculty and have a common space for studying. There are also classrooms, which remain filled during the day as well as quite a bit of common space.

Student Success Center (Kim McNeley)

The Student Success Center is the primary study area on campus and students come into the building intent on getting work done. The building houses Career Services, to ensure students can fit their major into their career plan. It has Academic Support and Mentoring and also the Writing Studio. Students wanted a building to work in and they also wanted a new electronic environment, The Electronic Student Success Center—also called Starfish Connect and Early Alert.

Starfish came to Faculty Senate's attention because of some of the abilities it has to support advisor communication. It allows a reinforcement of what is happening in the classroom. Many features Starfish is capable of are available this semester. Office hours and appointments with students can be set up online. Instructors can email students and keep a record of that, which is stored on the student's record and cannot be deleted, but is only visible between the instructor and the student. A student can also be praised by the instructor and a record is kept in the system.. The flags are more robust than the U-First system was. The Starfish flag system allows the instructor to remain involved after the student is flagged and communicate with the student and advisor. Online resources tied to each class are also readily available to the students.

If instructors use the Blackboard grade book then Starfish provides many tools to evaluate the students, including attendance. If attendance is a problem for a student then

the student advisor gets the academic alert. If students have not accessed Blackboard in several days, the student will get an alert. Feedback is requested from faculty for what other automated flags should be in place in Starfish. Tutorials are available for faculty, either individually or through the department.

Update on the ability of advisors to access Blackboard course grades

Advisors are not currently able to see course grades on Blackboard. If given permission then student advisors would only have access to their assigned student's grades and not to the class roster or other student grades.

Faculty Senate voted to allow advisors access to Blackboard course grades via Starfish.

Update on the use of the +/- grading system

UMKC has a policy in the catalog, which states that UMKC uses +/- grading. It should be stipulated in the course syllabus if an instructor is grading differently than the course catalog. In the syllabus, cutoffs should also be specified, and while the cutoffs can be lowered it cannot be raised. If several instructors teach the same course then the grading system should be the same.

Undergraduate grading policy:

<http://catalog.umkc.edu/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=99&chapterid=8455&topicgroupid=57191&loaduserredits=False>

Graduate grading policy:

<http://catalog.umkc.edu/~/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?htmllink=true&pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=99&topicgroupid=57084>

Update on the Data Classification System policy

The Data Classification System policy was presented in the previous meeting. An explanation of the classification system is available on the Faculty Senate website. The other UM campuses have voted on the issue and the IFC meeting is tomorrow. This policy covers the electronic information that was already under the umbrella of FERPA.

Faculty Senate voted to endorse the policy.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.