UMKC Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
18 March 2014
Plaza Room, Administrative Center (Volker Campus)

Present: Abreu, Barber, Dilks, Gardner, Gerkovich, Grieco, Igwe, Kilway, Luppino, McArthur, McCall, Pennington, Plamann, Schweitzberger, Solose, Sykes Berry, Taylor, Ward-Smith, Wyckoff

Excused: Bethman, Kumar, Stancel, Van Horn, White

Absent: Ellinghausen, Flowers, O’Brien, Petrie, Richardson, Rydberg-Cox, Srivastava, Van de Liefvoort

Guests: Devon Cancilla (Vice Provost for Online and Distance Learning), Amy Johnson (Student Government Association)

Online/distance education update and Sloan-C report (Devon Cancilla)

Online classes are part of the UMKC strategic plan. Goals UMKC have are to encourage student success, provide optimal learning environments, and expand the online offerings. UMKC has set the goal of 20,000 students by 2020 and one way to get to that number is to increase online offerings.

The Sloan-C report is a national benchmarking survey by the Sloan consortium. The survey was sent to 300 people and 111 responded, which is a 38.4% response rate. There were 70 questions that covered three areas: institutional support (faculty training, student support, technology), pedagogy, and quality and evaluation.
The results of the survey showed that UMKC fell into the C-range. The best score was in core structure, which comes from the instructional design team. The worst score UMKC received was in institutional support. Considering that UMKC is new to the online space, this is not too bad and gives UMKC specific areas to work on. There was a disparity between how the administrators responded and how faculty responded. Devon pointed out that the survey was designed for administrators and so some of the differences may be due to the fact that may not have been able to fully respond to some of the questions.

UMKC’s next goal is to move from a C- to a B—B+ range. The Sloan survey will provide a framework to deal with issues. A webpage was launched in January to centralize and promote UMKC online (http://info.umkc.edu/online/).

The Online Education Advisory Group (OEAG) was created to address issues related to online education for UMKC and includes representation across the academic units. The committee will use the Sloan framework to tell them what to look at and will consider policy and procedures for the online environment. There is also an eLearning Action Committee (eLAC) appointed by the deans and other administrative heads to begin the task of establishing online policies and procedures. Devon requested volunteers from the faculty senate to serve on either or both of the committees.

The online environment is a good place to build “boutique” programs, which are unique programs that do not compete with already existing programs. But the faculty or departments considering new online programs should keep in mind that the state that each student resides in must approve the program.

One thing to consider as a program moves online is how many states would it ideally be approved by. UMKC will have to consider this strategically. Most online students live within
200 miles of UMKC and so UMKC will most likely focus on the nine state region and then later out to 20 states and then perhaps to a few states who have many students. The cost to get approval for online programs varies by state and can be a substantial cost if many states are included in a program. The faculty should be aware of this when they put a program online.

Consequences for not getting approval could be a cease and desist order or UMKC could be charged penalties that could impact regional accreditation and damage the institution. Faculty Senate, working with the academic units, should think strategically about which programs could begin in Kansas City and which should be expanded.

Welcome and announcements (Ward-Smith, Chair)

The Provost is serving on a Search committee for MS&T and was out of town, and Chancellor Morton was also out of town. The committee search for the dean position in School of Medicine was put together and the first meeting was Thursday. The search is going to be managed by the Greenwood Search Committee, which is the same group who did the search for several other deans.

The search program asked the committee what it wanted in the dean position and the committee will be meeting April 21st to look through the list of nominated candidates. The goal is to have airport interviews for two days, and those have been tentatively scheduled for May 8th and May 9th. Ideally the position will be filled by early fall.

Approval of agenda/minutes

March 4 minutes approved. March 18 agenda approved.
Workload policy discussion

This document would only apply to tenure-track faculty, not non-tenure track faculty, who will not be rehired if they do not meet certain workload criteria. This policy was discussed at the IFC meeting last Thursday and unless UMKC polices itself, there will be a top-down policy instituted. Currently there is an accountability issue and there should be more transparency with tenure-track faculty workload.

Faculty Senate requested that the first bullet point on page 3 be changed:

“One strategy for promoting an equitable workload distribution is to make the details of the department members’ workload assignments transparent. A document listing workload assignments can be distributed each year explaining how faculty members meet their commitment to the department and college.”

Instead of “can” it will be changed to “must.”

“One strategy for promoting an equitable workload distribution is to make the details of the department members’ workload assignments transparent. A document listing workload assignments must be distributed each year explaining how faculty members meet their commitment to the department and college.”

Faculty Senate was willing to support the policy once the language was changed.

CRR grade retention discussion—unit-specific decisions

The grade retention policy requires that units retain grades for seven years because of legal purposes. Research data is already kept for seven years and this would just require that grades and syllabi be kept for seven years also. It is not a federal law, but it is an impending state
law, which would treat grades the same as research data and this was begun by the higher learning commission.

This policy does not require faculty using Blackboard or Moodle to do anything more because those grades will be archived automatically. Faculty who prefer not to use Blackboard or Moodle could upload an Excel spreadsheet and syllabus at the end of the semester into Blackboard or Moodle and that would be sufficient. By the end of March, departments must either require their faculty to use Blackboard or Moodle, or have a plan in place for archiving the syllabi and grades for each semester and that policy should then be added to the unit’s bylaws.

**SGA presentation on adding gender identity/expression to the nondiscrimination policy**

(Amy Johnson)

This resolution would include gender identity and gender expression in the university non-discrimination policy. MU and Missouri S&T supported the resolution and last week UMSL supported the resolution. At the system level, to get the resolution passed, SGA would like to have Faculty Senate support the resolution.

Faculty Senate moved to support the resolution. The resolution was supported.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:42.