

Faculty Senate Minutes
Tuesday February 2, 2010
Plaza Room, Administrative Center, 3-5pm

Present: Ebersole, Ward-Smith, Stancel, Fincham, Alleman, Williams, Johnston, Potts, Hunter, Bethman, Nilsson, Fieldman, Krantz, Davies, Wyckoff, Ziskin, Humrichouser, Hopkins, Madison-Canon, Beard, Luppino, Yang, Gardner,

Visitors: Provost Hackett, Doug Swink (Registrar), Jan Randolph (Director of Financial Aid), Kaye Johnston (Coordinator-Solid Waste Recycling)

Excused: Dinakarbandian, Carbone, McArthur, Krause

Absent: Holsinger, Rice, Wang, Foxworth

Welcome-3:02, Called to order by the Chair Gary Ebersole

Informational Items

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be in the Law School Large Conference Room. You can park at the Administrative Center, enter on basement level of the Law School, take the elevator up one level, and it is on the right. From the Bloch School side, it is on the main level; head towards the secretaries; the room is behind their space. Check with the secretaries if you get lost.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to serve on the Ombudsperson Search Committee. Senators Potts, Pick, and Madison-Canons' names have been forwarded for that committee. An announcement has gone out to the Deans about this position. Others can still nominate themselves or others. Send nominations to Ron MacQuarrie (macquarrie@umkc.edu).

Provost Hackett has sent out an announcement about the awards ceremony. It will be on Monday Feb. 15 in Spencer Theatre from 3:00-4:30.

Senator Luppino had an update on the intellectual property policy. From the examples that were sent out, the general thought was that students owned the intellectual property and not the university. The committee did say that they thought the policy needs work. The draft is not as far along as they had wanted. Sometime in the next 10 days there should be a complete draft, in markup; the ad hoc committee asks that senators make comments and recommendations on the draft so they can send them on to the IFC.

Senator Fieldman has a colleague in the Conservatory, Keith Benjamin, whose son has been diagnosed with leukemia. There will be a couple of benefits. The first will be on February 13th, at the Performing Arts Center. If you want to be on the bone marrow registry, it involves a cheek swab. There will be prizes and more. More details are forthcoming.

Approval of Agenda

One change was made. Senator Johnston and the Academic Issues have a request for a minor change in wording concerning the committee's charge to conduct evaluations of the Deans.

They will be on the agenda after the sustainability update.
All approved the agenda

Approval of Minutes for January 19, 2009

A question was raised about the name and spelling of the consultant on space utilization. Provost Hackett said that Ad Astra is the correct name. With those changes, Senator Fincham moved to approve, Senator Fieldman seconded, and all approved.

Provost's Report

Provost Hackett wanted to thank everyone who was involved with Board of Curators' lunch. It went very well, and the Board was impressed with it.

The search committee for the new Pharmacy dean has had finalists at the University over the last couple of weeks. The Provost is meeting with the search committee tomorrow. They will move forward and make an offer, or they may bring two finalists back. She wants to congratulate the committee for a fine job. They had four fine candidates, and the fact that they had candidates in before the end of January was amazing. This puts us ahead of most of the other schools searching for a pharmacy dean.

Last year there was a big push to alert people to, and to get them involved in, retention and student success efforts. Following that effort, this year, along with Student Affairs, we are bringing in three people from ACT. If you can attend the sessions it will be worth your while. All three have a good deal to say and are very knowledgeable about student retention. Steve Robbins has published many meta-analyses. Arts and Sciences 100 will benefit from Steve Robbins as he has published on relevant topics to what they are doing. If you can make it please do so, and pass it around to colleagues.

Senator Wyckoff asked what was going on with the people protesting by the electronic bulletin board at the entrance to the University. Provost Hackett said that she hasn't seen it, but did hear from the Dean of the Library. It concerns the fact that the contractors at the library are not using 100% union labor. We were told that as a part of whatever contract we made with them that they are abiding by a set of principles that we have about pay and working hours and treatment of workers. Technically they are not using union labor. Senator Hunter noted that the non-union workers brought in have knowledge specific to the installation of the robot. 95% of the workers are union members.

Senator Yang asked if the info on student success has been sent out. Provost Hackett said that it has been sent, but will send it again.

Senator Hopkins raised a concern that it seems like in first week of school students had problems with financial aid and they were not being able to enroll until later in the week. Ms. Brandow said that there was no issue with federal aid, but noted that there is a federal law that states that no aid for this term can be used to pay for past due balances. If students owed the University money from past terms, then they could not enroll until something was done by students to make payment arrangements. Senators Hopkins followed up and asked if this would affect enrollments in long run. Ms. Brandow said that she could not say for sure, but knows that there were long

lines waiting to pay. Typically students made a minimum payment so they could enroll, and then make arrangements to pay the rest. Senator Ziskin asked about the minimum number of hours that a student must be enrolled in to qualify for financial aid, and what are break points. Ms. Brandow said that grad students must be enrolled for at least five hours, and undergrads at least six. They have to be enrolled at least half time. Living expense, and housing allowance are the same for half and full time enrollment. The difference is for fees and books.

Clarification on NR

Doug Swink, UMKC Registrar, was in attendance to talk about the NR grade. Mr. Swink began by giving some background on the NR. It began being used several years ago to identify students who were not attending classes, but were enrolled, and to initiate contact with them so changes could be made. A student may not be attending a class any longer, stopped attending due to emergency reasons, or did not realize that they needed to drop the class. In the past it was always calculated as an "F" for their GPA. This policy was in place to get them to make the change. The current method allowed for these situations to be caught ahead of time. This allowed the University to capture accurate information on academic progress, enrollment, and other items that have to be tracked.

Mr. Swink said that he understood from the conversation at the last meeting that the Senate did not want to factor the NR as an F and wanted to give students a two-year period to resolve it. He suggested that keeping the F gives students a reason to make changes. He also suggested changing the two-year time period to one year, which would be more in line with an Incomplete. He noted that there could be problems with the degree awarding process with the Senate's proposed changes. If a student received an NR in the fall, wanted to graduate in the spring, and have not had the grade factored in, then it could cause problems as the student's GPA might not be accurate.

Other questions were asked about the financial aid implications of the NR. Ms. Brandow said that the NR is important to financial aid in that the Financial Aid Office needs a way to distinguish between earned F and F by default. The Financial Aid Office is required by the federal government to document satisfactory progress by students. They also need to be able to run a list of students not maintaining a minimum GPA to graduate and who are not making progress. These reports have to be run for all students. The problem is that some students maintain their GPA because they get NR's when they know they are failing. Ms. Brandow noted that they have to know how to count the F's. The Financial Aid Office gets audited based on the students who just walk away and who have earned the F.

Senator Krantz asked how what the Senate said effects what the Financial Aid Office does. Ms. Brandow said that it was mostly an issue on how to count the NR. Having a two-year time limit determines how it gets counted. Using a one-year period would drop the student's GPA after one year. It could have the effect of lowering the number of students that are getting counted in the federal reports.

A question was asked about why this came up as an issue. It was noted that the issue was that students sometimes did not know that they needed to make changes, and there was concern about the two-step process of changing the way the grade was counted. Mr. Swink noted that he

thought that the middle step of changing the way the grade is counted has been taken care of, possibly before it came to the Senate. If a student is using a new course to make up the NR, then the middle step is removed. He noted that there needs to be clarification about the time students have to make these changes. A point was made that it might make more sense to give students a shorter period of time so that they get the grade changed. A question was raised about how long it takes to get the grade changed. Mr. Swink answered that does not affect their ability to enroll. The only thing that would affect it would be if there are unit requirements that they have to meet in order to enroll in classes.

It was noted, by several in attendance, that this issue has been raised, and was thought to be taken care of. Chair Ebersole asked Senator Krantz if this could be taken back to the committee to be revised given the information that was presented in the meeting. Senator Krantz said that it could go back to the committee, but he wanted to make sure that he understood what was being discussed. His understanding was that there was concern over the two-year time period. He also asked for clarification on why the grade should be counted as an F, and what makes the “I” different from the NR in this regard. Mr. Swink said that the F is impetus for the student to get the grade resolved quickly. He further noted that the “I” is not treated as an F because there is an agreement between the student and faculty member to complete the course. However, if does become figured as an F if it has not been resolved in 365 days. Chair Ebersole asked about students who have legitimate emergencies. Mr. Swink said that there are other avenues available to students, like an administrative withdrawal, that can be used in those cases.

Administrative Affairs Committee

Senator Johnston moved that a change of four words be made to section 4C of the committee’s charge and procedures. The change was that raw results of faculty evaluations of their dean would not be provided to the faculty senators from that specific unit. The raw data go to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. In the discussion it was noted that this reflects what happened this year, but it is not formal policy. Some faculty did receive the raw data, not only the executive summary. Senator Johnston said that a compromise was made over the summer, since the Provost could not use raw data for evaluation purposes if it was public. The proposed change reflects what is currently being done, not what was done in some cases in the past. Questions were raised about what the Deans needed to do with the executive summaries. The goal is that the deans should be required to take some action in response to the summaries. The Chair noted that the proposed change in wording was a friendly amendment to a previously approved Senate action and, thus, could be acted on at this time by a simple vote. The amendment was approved, with one opposed and three abstentions.

Sustainability Efforts on Campus

Kaye Johnston, Coordinator-Solid Waste Recycling, was present to give an update on the sustainability efforts taking place on campus. Ms. Johnston noted that she started part time in recycling and saw opportunities in sustainability. She is currently in the minor program in sustainability. Several years ago, she started an ad hoc group looking at sustainability.

Sustainability efforts have been ongoing since 2004 and cover areas like waste reduction strategies, energy management, green purchasing, transportation, grounds management, green buildings, and carbon print calculations. The model being used is through a set of teams and

subcommittees that gather information from faculty, staff, and students. Then goals are made and implemented.

The recycling team started in 2004 and saw opportunities to work on more than recycling. They worked to a group of 56 set goals in November 2007 for 2008. In October 2008 they had met all the goals that had been set for that year. They have also been working with Bridging the Gap and received grants for projects through them. One area of focus has been in building projects with LEED certification; the new student union is an example of this. There other programs in place like the ride share program and the bicycle program. Sustainability efforts are a part of the new master plan. In 2009 existing programs will be expanded.

A question was asked about what happens to the materials that are recycled? Ms. Johnston said that we do make money on them, but not much. Another question was asked about what happens to e-waste. Ms. Johnston said that they work with MARC, and that all was is handled in the US rather than going outside of the country as it can cause health problems, especially in third world countries.

Senator Stancel asked how people become aware of the bike program. Ms. Johnston replied that the easiest way is to get hold of her. Senator Plamann asked about plans to establish charging stations for electric vehicles. Ms. Johnston said that they are working on that. Bob Simmons (Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Facilities) said that the Clean Cities grant included a single charging station on campus. A task force was created to look at infrastructure needs. There are a lot of people still figuring out where that is going. They want to be sure that they are involved in Kansas City's efforts to look at that. Chair Ebersole noted that Senators McArthur, Davies, and Dean Truman are in the early stage of looking at issues concerning cooperative opportunities related to sustainability. In the current economic times, it makes good fiscal and environmental sense.

Full Time Non Tenure Track Faculty on Campus

Chair Ebersole noted that the intention of the NTT designation was to recognize full-time individuals who are not in tenure track positions that were not necessarily represented or promoted. He further noted that not every school has moved to implement this in the same fashion. Indeed, some schools listed PT faculty as NTT faculty.

In the discussion it was noted that the numbers that were distributed were hard to understand and that there were missing programs. Provost Hackett noted that she had received a different number than that captured on the handout. It was noted that one of the problems in looking at the numbers that were provided is that there is not a consistent method of classification for individuals. Chair Ebersole noted that the main point the Senate was looking for is what percentage of the teaching is done by faculty who are not tenured, nor in tenure-track positions. Provost Hackett said she is looking into this and will have Larry Bunce from Institutional Research put together better numbers that take into account the differences across schools and programs.

Adjourned at 4:47. The next meeting is on February 16, 2010 in the Law School Administrative Conference Room..