Faculty Senate Minutes ---Approved  
Tuesday, May 04, 2010  
Plaza Room, Administrative Center, 3 p.m.


Visitors: Cathleen Burnett, Leo Morton, Gail Hackett, Rick Anderson, Bob Simmons, Mel Tyler and Paris Saunders

Excused: Rochelle Ziskin, Tony Humrichouser

Absent: Randy Gardner, Lou Potts, S. Madison-Cannon, DC Chia-Chih, Tony Luppino

This was your Secretary-elect’s first Senate meeting. Carole gave me the opportunity to take minutes of the session for which I take complete responsibility. Please read them carefully and let me know of any changes that might be needed.

1. Welcome: 3pm Chair Ebersole calls the meeting to order.

Informational Items:

This is our last regularly scheduled faculty senate meeting. The Senate does not typically meet during the summer unless there is an emergency. Chair Ebersole hopes not to have to meet during the summer. The first meeting in the Fall semester is the 7th of September. Thanks for the due diligence this year of all the senators. Special thanks to those rotating off the executive committee: Alex Holsinger.

There have been some glitches with the Faculty Senate listserv but it should be fixed now. Please let Chair Ebersole know if senators experience any trouble in sending emails.

2. Approval of Agenda: motion to approve agenda. There may be time at the end of the meeting to discuss the immigration law discussion that has engaged the community.

3. Approval of Minutes for April 6th and April 20th 2010:

Approval of 6th Minutes: with corrections: last page 3rd parag, 3rd line. “an animal protocol”; spelling of posal, institutional repository not intellectual repository. John moved, Chris seconded. All in favor.

April 20th Minutes. Approved.
4. Chancellor’s Report: Leo Morton

The Chancellor added to Gary’s appreciation for the Senators’ support and attention to details this year. He has felt supported. As evident from Curator meetings and meetings with the President, he believes that we are gaining in reputation as a university. The Curators approved the extension of the metro rate from 4 to 11 counties; all the way to Lawrence KS; approved property exchange Project Blue. The Governor’s deal of holding the state allocation reduction to 5.25% was approved by the General Assembly. There will be no tuition increases this year. Enrollment is up 10% which bodes well for next year. The University Budget Committee (UBC) has been great this year. There is full Implementation of the New Budget Model in 6 out of 11 schools. His concern is not for next year if we stay focused and bring the benefits from this year into next year. The concern is 2012. The Chancellor is developing the outline of a process to get after it. The process cannot be completed without support from faculty, which may necessitate input from faculty this summer. Tony Luppino and others can go over that with you. Any questions?

Comment: A letter in the KC Star within the last few days complained about the changes in Access MO scholarships by the legislature, was filled with misinformation. The Chancellor will check into the legislative outcome (two year schools started pitching to get increases also) to see what response might be made. All responses are to be coordinated through the President’s office and Mel Tyler. The intent of the changes is to even out awards.

5. Provost’s Report: Gail Hackett

Update on P&T: Announcements will be out in the next 2-3 weeks.

The Provost held a meeting with the Latino community yesterday. This meeting was in response to concerns expressed in the Kansas City community about the consulting work that Law Professor Kobach has done on immigration issues in Arizona and other states. The Provost explained that the University will continue to support Professor Kobach’s academic freedom and 1st Amendment rights. The University’s positions is that when Professor Kobach does his consulting work, he is not doing it for the University but for himself. Mike Mahoney of Channel 9 TV reported accurately the University’s position of protecting 1st amendment rights. Senator Fieldman saw Professor Kobach interviewed, stating that bills similar to Arizona’s were very possible in Mo and KS, and might be passed next year. Chancellor Morton’s first stop back from vacation was to Gail to thank her for her handling of this concern. Others expressed admiration for the Provost’s handling of the matter and recognizing that perception is reality.

Question: What is the line when academic freedom is protected and when not protected? The line has to do with when the person is operating in their professional role or in the extension of their professional role. Senator Krause: It is very easy to defend academic freedom when you agree with what person is saying. Over the years academic freedom has been invoked to protect the minority side of the spectrum.

Comment: There is a perception problem especially with latino students. Students are saying that they don’t feel safe on campus. Unfortunately, we don’t have the level of diversity that would allow us to
weather this situation the way other universities can. A concern is that we may not be able to recruit and retain students. Over the summer, how are we going to reverse this negative situation? Provost Hackett: We’ll definitely be talking about it.

One possibility for the future would be to sponsor intellectual debate. It would be appropriate to take on these issues as faculty, to do something proactively, sponsoring discussion and debate. About 2 years ago we did have such a program/debate. Chair Ebersole: The University is especially situated to hold civil civic discourse. Chancellor Morton has been working with the community leaders for 8-10 years, in a series of one-on-one meetings. They may never agree with us, but it is important that they understand our position. Mel Tyler will be meeting with student leaders, going to do several listening sessions, starting with Hispanic student leaders, right away.

Another effort will be to step up recruitment this summer. We will stress our core values of non-discrimination and inclusivity. The Provost distributed the pamphlet about our strategic plan and mission values at the meeting with the latino community members. There are many things we can do, in the classroom or by writing letters to the editor, for example. The Provost is looking for other things we can do. Question: what is proportion of latinos here at UMKC? About 4% of total student population. In KC the percentage of Hispanics is 30% of the population. Provost Hackett will get accurate statistics and send them out. At UBC level: It will be important to subsidize recruiting as a priority. What about need-based scholarships? Do we have any enrichments in community? Or a summer bridge program/ institute? We do have a Cesar Chavez celebration. Mel Tyler will send report out about all the scholarships that we use to invest in Hispanic students. The Chancellor could use such a report in his individual meetings. This is an opportunity to increase students, it is a growth area. Provost Hackett agrees. Senator Fieldman suggested a unifying day or a community day: perhaps a teach-in with invitation to community leaders to be our mentors on these issues.

6. Senate Financial Report: Carole McArthur: It was noted that the business travel figure was not accurate. It mis-categorized catering of Chinese buffet for the All Faculty Senate meeting in April. Gary will ensure the correction is made. See Attachment A.

7. Shared System Wide Services: Rick Anderson

Rick Anderson described the upcoming project to look at various campus functions with an eye toward efficiencies across the 4 campuses. The team to do this will look at 4 preliminary functions: Administrative Accounting, IT, Human Relations, and Procurement. Working throughout the summer, the team will begin with data collection on campuses and benchmarking. They will communicate widely to allay staff nervousness. What is the goal? To achieve what corporations have done: to identify some opportunities to improve processes; to get savings; to improve customer service. Senator Krause reminded all present that PeopleSoft has created 5 times more work for no improvement. Totally counter-productive, she believes.

Another senator expressed concern/dismay/demoralization that the Capital budgeting process does not include people development/improvement.
8. Construction Projects Funding Update: Bob Simmons and Rick Anderson

An executive summary form for projects over $500,000 has been developed in order to establish prioritization criteria for capital projects. This reporting form will provide a higher level of transparency and understanding. Since there is no capital activity for state appropriations we will role forward the top 3 projects: Library, Med School Phase 2, and the Dentistry addition. State funding is not likely in next few years.

Other projects further down the priority list are: the Olson Performing Arts Center & University Center renovation-- the Student Success Center. Priority choices are projects that also have direct impact on growth student enrollments

Other projects: the Administrative Center renovation; the sciences renovation; the Library, the Law Library; the Education building, the old Swinney Gym, and the Young Matrons building.

Update on Young Matrons Property. Negotiations are proceeding for the relocation of the KC YM Clubhouse. Although other parts of that project are not moving ahead, there is a unique opportunity to work with the Young Matrons to acquire that site. We will own title to the property and give land and move their building to the School of Education location. Question concerning the property transfer: Are they equivalent values, do they get more acreage in the Education parking lot? What is value of property? Over $3 million. Question: What is our obligation to YM? To go through the due diligence process to fully understand costs. The University has been coveting that land for a long period of time. There are about 300 women and they have no desire to move and no money. This proposal is something that made sense to them and leaves them better off. Now that it is in place, we need to move forward because we will want to develop the property. We also are wary of UMKC’s relatively recent legacy concerning eminent domain. Question: Is there an increase in appraisal once land is all one? Yes. From $700,000-1.2million. Net is break even now but will only get higher value as a strategic piece of land. We will move their building and add an extension. There are 426 parking spaces in the Education lot now, after the deal, 120 student parking spaces will be gone.

The cost of $600,000-900,000 comes from reserves that exist within the Administrative unit, not from next year’s budget. Question: How high are reserves? $2.4 million range for the whole division on a budget of $47 million which is about 5% of the operating budget. Question: Do we have any reserves for faculty and staff? Each School’s Dean has the ability to determine their reserves. Chancellor Morton: largest reserves are in School of Medicine with about $9 million. This year we expect that to grow. Overall we must retain in the 5% range. $25 million is just over 10% of operating budget. Chancellor Morton agrees that asking folks to step up without pay raises is unsustainable, especially when the Curators come in and ask: Have you provided raises?

Comment: There is high uncertainty for 2012. This is a lot of money to spend when we are unsure. However there is support from a local curator, it is a unique opportunity, and construction today is cheaper because of the economy (for example, the estimate on the library work was 30% under what we expected). The YM leadership is in a mood to agree with us. We need to strike while the iron is hot.
Comment: I agree with analysis of economic conditions, but this year we received notice of no pay raises, with declining pay raises over 3 years...2012 doesn’t look pretty. Unlikely to see pay raise in ‘12, the following year we will be plugging holes—weighing against the capital projects, all of us will hear lots of comments regarding compensation. Chancellor: This is a big issue for me. We can’t wait for state to turn around. We have to take this into our own hands. But this $900,000 won’t make a dent in the pay raise issue. He is working on something but is not free to discuss at this time.

Chair Ebersole sent emails about the parking garage proposal to pass on parking fee increase of 10% to faculty and staff!! Provost Hackett too understands. Parking: Will there be increases? Parking has held steady the last two years, expect the same this year. There are 400 more spaces to help serve campus.

Senator Fieldman asked what is being done to make sure we don’t need more parking on campus? Students had transportation fee vote which failed by a very close margin. They may take it up again. There are also KCATA bus options, shuttle services and some sharing with Rockhurst. We are also looking at more biking and other remote parking possibilities.

9. Oak Street Update: Mel Tyler and Paris Saunders

Goal 1 is to put students at the center. Student Affairs is taking more charge of Residential Life Management and especially Oak Place to create savings. Johnson Hall and Oak Hall are now a positive student experience. Initially there have been some difficulties for students, with maintenance, duplicate services, etc. Some Oak Place contracts were secret. Also a duplication of staff. At one point we were close to losing our letter of credit, now we are able to hold that off for 2 years. Savings are passed on to students in lower rents: $599/month and in lower parking fees: from $800 to $492. At this time there is no retail leased. We paid $12/sq ft. and intend to lease it for $15-17/sq ft. As the Managing Agent the better job we do, the more we get in cash flow from the ground lease arrangement with a positive impact on the University’s operational budget.

Question: What are occupancy rates? 98%. Oak Place is 85%, 4 bedroom apartments are tougher to rent.

Question: What is residential rate? 1500 students on campus, about 1600 before. Parking assumes that residential students are walking to classes. There are not a lot of double parking stickers.

Comment: What about supporting a clean commute by giving bikes to students for a semester. 52nd street to Cherry is the way through campus. Some would support a Master Plan to make this a pedestrian campus.

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Another issue was raised about RIF funds, that is, there does not appear to be any campus policy to guide the situation if you move between units. Discussion: Since the money belongs to dean, it is likely the faculty member cannot take it with them. It was asked whether there is a policy in each school? There appears to be no University System policy in the Collected Rules pertaining specifically to this issue. Chair Ebersole will send the link to the section on Incentives, Personnel.

**Final comments:** Provost Hackett urged us to organize community events around immigration. Such may be contentious but it is important to stress our core values in the community, and that there is no orthodoxy on campus. Senator Carbone reported that there is no consensus in the Law School. A question was raised about UMKC faculty attendance at professional meetings in Arizona. If they opted to support a boycott of Arizona, would they be reimbursed for travel already reserved? Not likely, since the University can’t make policy statements. We were reminded that the larger issue is Immigration and we should broaden our response to encompass historical and other perspectives as we address the immediate concern brought to our attention by students and the community.

Ended on that note. 5:02 p.m. Whew!