

Faculty Senate Minutes
Tuesday December 15, 2009
Plaza Room, Administrative Center, 3-5pm

Present: Ebersole, McArthur, Fieldman, Davies, Holsinger, Alleman, Johnston, Wyckoff, Chia-Chih, Dinakarandian, Stancel, Beard, Krantz, Foxworth, Fincham, Carbone, Pick, Hunter, Yang, Bethman

Visitors: Vice-Chancellor Anderson, Bob Simmons, Schubert, Wurrey, Schmitz

Excused: Ziskin, Krause, Humrichouser, Luppino, Williams, Rice, Ward-Smith

Absent: Madison-Cannon, Hopkins, George,

Welcome-3:05, Called to order by the Chair Gary Ebersole

Information items:

Chair Ebersole noted the busy time and the need to plan for the next Senate, campus, and system-level elections in the spring.. Four out of the five positions on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, including the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and one member of the IFC will be up for election. These elections will be organized by the Administrative Affairs Committee.

Addition to agenda: Senator Davies requested the addition a discussion of President Forsee's letter on the Environmental Cap and Trade Legislation. Moved by Fincham/Seconded Krantz, all were in favor.

Minutes

There were no additional changes requested to the 1st December minutes. The minutes were accepted without changes. Moved Krantz/ Seconded Wyckoff , all were in favor.

Provost Report

Provost Hackett commented that there had been discussions regarding the importance of marketing UMKC and what could be done to enhance this. In response, Mary Allen Gallagher has been hired as a consultant to assist in this goal. She has experience in this arena, including work for institutions such as Rockefeller U. and the U. of Pennsylvania. She has been on campus for two days to have initial conversations and will serve with a group including some Senators. This is planned to be a short-term arrangement beginning in January to extend until the Spring. Senator Beard asked what needed to be changed and the Provost remarked humorously that we needed a marketing strategy, the implication being that we did not have much going on to date. She did comment that there was a small recruitment campaign, but this was directed at a small group of high school graduates, which was effective but insufficient. We need to expand our marketing across a wider group and incorporate our core values.

Ombudsman position description draft: Provost Hackett said that the first draft was prepared by Ron MacQuarrie and the second version was drafted after University Counsel had reviewed

the former and made a few changes. This is an independent position for which the details have not been worked out yet. We already have a Faculty Grievance Panel and a mechanism for mediation and the Ombudsperson would be another mechanism for resolving issues informally within the campus. In response to the question by Senator Stancel regarding the usage of the mediation resource, it was noted by Chair Ebersole that the number of individuals using mediation is small. He suggested this was because of the lack of knowledge about the availability of this option for resolving difficulties. There was a general discussion of the amount of released time and whether the individual chosen should be a faculty member or not. Consideration would need to be given to the 9- or 12-month appointment of the selected individual. The Provost reminded people that in her experience this individual was usually a faculty member because a faculty member would empathize with another faculty member. Senator Krantz noted that the last person UMKC had in a similar role was Auggie Mendosa who was not a faculty member. The Provost suggested this be left to the search committee and there should be flexibility to hire an associate professor or, as noted by Senator Fieldman, a recently retired faculty member, if such a suitable person was identified. It was apparent that the position would need to be independent from both administration and the Faculty Senate with a high level of confidentiality. A system of evaluation of the performance of this individual would need to be in place and Provost Hackett said in response to Senator Carbone's question that there would be training provided for this individual before they began. Chair Ebersole suggested that by January 2010 we should have a clearer picture of this position for endorsement by the Senate.

Administrative Issues Committee: Tom Johnson

A discussion item was proposed to more clearly define exactly what occurs in the process of evaluation of the Deans. A small change was proposed to reflect the compromise reached between the Provost and the Senate over the summer. All Deans, which are evaluated on alternate years, were reviewed during the 2008 except Pyle (new), Bloch (new) and the Pharmacy (retiring) School. Chair Ebersole summarized the process in response to a question by Senator Beard, noting that Senators only received the redacted version of the raw data which was summarized by Larry Bunce in the Provost's office. The Senate Executive Committee members, however, had reviewed the raw data presented in these summaries to evaluate whether this accurately reflected faculty responses. Senator Krantz said he was surprised that the Senate only sends summaries out. Members of the Senate conveyed that it was necessary to be sure the Deans accurately understood the feedback so they could respond. Senator Alleman raised the question as to whether the Dean understood the nature of the summary and what was required in terms of a response by them to their respective faculties. Senator Beard suggested that a member of the Executive Committee be present when each Dean addressed these evaluations to their faculty. Provost Hackett questioned the nature of the current discussion and remarked that this expressed mistrust of Deans. She said that the conversation should be directed to changing behavior of Deans where necessary and thus monitoring results of evaluation should be the focus of effort. Senator Fincham added that we need to trust those who carry the report back to the units.

Facilities Management: Rick Anderson and Bob Simmons

An update in the progress of capital projects and the master plan was presented. This consisted of a detailed analysis presented on 6 slides showing current construction updates on the Health Sciences and Volker campuses, with special attention given to the student union and Oak Street West. Questions from the Senate concerned additional the capital required and whether the Union would be self-sustaining. Simmons conveyed it would be self-sustaining. Senator Davies inquired about the rationale underlying the long-term arrangement for Sodexo to provide food and whether they provided locally sourced competitive food. It was noted that currently competition was limited and that Sodexo was the single source. There was not a clear response to the question of what Sodexo's profit was. Simmons stated that there was additional space at the Union for additional vendors but this was "on hold". A brief discussion followed on the Troost St facility occupied by Social Work and Simmons estimated that \$10 million would be required to renovate this, if there were to be an effort to restore it.

Cap and Trade Legislation:

Senator Davies requested a discussion of the letter by President Forsee to the Missouri legislative delegation in Washington urging them not to support the climate change legislation. She felt that this was presented as representative of the U. of Missouri System as a whole, without real consultation. Moreover, the only components engaged seemed to be financial issues. She expressed concern that there were already numerous indicators of the impact of climate change locally on agriculture, for example, with major economic implications, but these had apparently been overlooked by Forsee. She noted that we need him to reflect the views of faculty and that there is a huge opportunity for UMKC to lead in sustainability. As an example she noted the increase in student admissions in the area of "green" energy and related issues. Enrollment has increased from approximately 30 to 120 in Environmental Studies over a short interval. Senator Beard remarked that we may be over-reacting and that he felt Forsee was not generalizing. Senator Wycoff felt that President Forsee was expressing his opposition to climate legislation in this instance, and while he can express his personal opinion, he should not convey this on behalf of the System. Chair Ebersole noted that we must address sustainability in our decision making through-out the University.

Adjourned at 5:15, next mtg. on January 19th in Rm 106 University Center.