

**Minutes
Faculty Senate
October 18, 2011
Plaza Room, Administrative Center, 3 p.m.**

Present: Ebersole, Ward-Smith, McArthur, Stancel, Burnett, Wyckoff, Plamann, Gardner, Taylor, Durig, Peng, Baker, Lyne, Madison-Cannon, Sherburn, Odom, Butner, O'Brien, Luppino, Alleman, Gerkovich, Stanley, Igwe, Bethman

Excused: McDaniels, Sohraby, Thiagarajan, Holt, Nickel, Sykes Berry, Fincham

Absent: Hermanns, Krantz

Guests: Provost Gail Hackett, Kansas City Mayor Sly James, media representatives and staff representatives, some faculty.

1. Welcome and Informational Items

The chair, Gary Ebersole welcomed and introduced two new faculty senators - Mona Lyne (College of A&S) and Sean O'Brien (School of Law).

The chair mentioned that he had occasion to invite the Commissioner of Higher Education David Russell to meet with the Faculty Senate early next semester.

The final reminder was given that the Board of Curators' Breakfast on Oct. 21. RSVP's are due.

2. Approval of Agenda

Senator Wyckoff moved and Senator Stanley seconded the motion to approve the agenda. All approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Senator Luppino moved and Senator Baker seconded the motion to approve the Minutes of October 4, 2011. All approved.

4. Provost Report: Gail Hackett

The Provost gave a quick update on what System speculates about the preliminary budget for 2013. Although the economy is better, System might go for a 5% cut because of some uncertainties.

Provost Hackett also stated that the initial tuition fees are due next week which is much earlier than usual because of the need to get a figure before the Board of Curators meeting in early February next year. As inflation is 3% now, it is not the intention to go over inflation.

The Provost also provided information about the initial recommendations made regarding the Performance Funding issue, which are still under the discussion.

The following measures would likely be included to assess the performance of universities under the new performance funding model -

- Total degrees awarded
- Six year graduation rate
- Percentage of funding spent on General Education

The following measures are being considered

- Freshman to sophomore retention rate
- Degrees awarded per student FTE
- Full time student percentage of completion of 24 courses
- Performance of students on nationally normed exams

3. Introduction of Kansas City Mayor Sly James

The Mayor thanked the Senate members for the invitation and said that the value of a quality educational institution in UMKC at the middle of the city is invaluable. It serves as a catalyst for thought and it contributes to our goal to be an entrepreneurial city. Unless we educate and retain our smart people in the city, we can't make a strong base to have economic progress. James gave various examples of KC's rich background in producing many successful entrepreneurs, remarking that all of the now big companies were started by a handful of people.

What is KC going to be about?

The Mayor predicted that KC is going to come out of the recession and we have to be willing to make investments to help us move to the next level. One such move is in the educational system. There are 14 school districts in Kansas City. For example, North Kansas City is one of the fastest growing school districts in the state as people are moving there. His concern is focused on the children and on the change necessary to create a learning atmosphere for all.

National League of Cities

The Mayor sent a letter last Friday to the National League of Cities to express the intent to participate in their competition with a campaign to improve the love for reading among school children. The aim is to make 'third graders read like third graders.' Around 125 cities will be participating in this competition and only 10 will be picked. He said the real motivation behind why we want to win is not for the trophy

or plaque but we want to do something with the community by which children can be impacted. If we work together and teach students how to read, that's the biggest trophy we are going to have.

New Police Chief

James praised the new police chief who is working really hard to bring down the homicide and crime rate in the city. The Mayor will evaluate him every 6 months and if there is not improvement, he would look for a new chief.

About having a university in the city

The Wall Street Journal named Kansas City to be one of the best places to start businesses in the US. He wants to focus on the educational infrastructure here, which provides the training, research, the knowledge and know how. We aim to be known as the city for entrepreneurs. I am concerned with not only the social activities of people here but also business activities and if these things are not taken care of, we will lose people.

Question to the Mayor: UMKC history was founded here during the great depression. We are teaching more and more students with less funding every year. What ways do you see that the city could help us if we are going to educate more people in the region of greater KC.

I am not sure in terms of financial support as we are struggling ourselves. We need to find areas of partnership. As a city we should target specific areas of commerce or business. We should train that target in the schools and colleges. We are thinking how one dollar can have impact in multiple areas, to find the nexus between the university, business and the government. We are committed to spend more in the education rather than in the prison.

Question: What are the prospects of moving the Conservatory downtown?

It depends more on what the University thinks. If the University thinks it's good, then I'm okay with it. I just care about University's best interest. I'll give my full support to the University's decision.

Question: Urban engagement is our one of the challenges. Acting as a facilitator between the public and private entities, how can you engage our students in the community?

I often ask students what profession they want to take up. It's neat if we can hook up these students with the right people in the profession they chose. It's a good idea if you directly engage with the people who you hopefully see in a few more years. Right now they don't have a real clue other than what they see on TV.

Question: How to retain the resources in the city ?

How to recognize achievements of our people in an organized way is a great challenge. We want to keep our talent. We are 27th in the country with our young talent between 18 to 27 years of age who have their bachelor degree. Marketing and telling our stories is key.

Conclusion

I appreciate you all for what you do and I want the university to take the front seat to move our city ahead. Frankly Leo is great but 'Leo is Leo', we need educational solutions to implement in the city. We can facilitate in whatever way you want. Thank you all for the time, I appreciate it.

5. Provost's Remarks continued: Gail Hackett

As of now UMKC is not doing that great when it is measured on the proposed new performance funding model. However, there is a lot of room to improve in the years to come since we didn't really improve much in the last few years. She also said that the six year measures will be taken into account from 2013 freshmen to 2019 seniors but even now we can also look at some of the indicators on where we are going. She also clarified that the performance measure is for only undergraduates and focuses on increasing the percentage of the population with post secondary degrees.

6. Committee Reports

There were none, hence, the meeting adjourned early.