

Minutes

Faculty Senate

November 15, 2011

Plaza Room, Administrative Center, 3 p.m.

Present: Ebersole, Ward-Smith, Stancel, Burnett, Wyckoff, Plamann, Gardner, Taylor, Baker, Lyne, McDaniels, Sohraby, Thiagarajan, Madison-Cannon, Sherburn, Holt, Butner, Odom, Sykes Berry, Alleman, Gerkovich, Hermanns, Krantz, Stanley, Fincham, Bethman

Excused: McArthur, Durig, Peng, Nickel, Luppino

Absent: O'Brien, Igwe

Guests: Gail Hackett, Provost; Denis Medeiros, Vice Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies; Nancy Mills, former Dean of Nursing

1. Welcome and Informational Items

The meeting began at 3:01 when a quorum arrived.

- 1) The Senate needs to elect one of the faculty senators to serve on the Campus Teaching Awards committee. Each senator was asked to think about who might be elected and there will be a vote at the end of the meeting to fill the vacancy.
- 2) The Chair mentioned that there is to be a motion at the next IFC meeting on Thursday to adopt the UMKC NTT faculty status of Librarians system-wide.
- 3) A letter from the University Faculty Senates was sent to the Board of Curators supporting the extension of benefits to domestic partners. Many state institutions are waiting for UM to take a lead on this issue. The Chair promises that pressure to move forward will continue.

2. Approval of Agenda

Senator Fincham made the motion to approve the agenda and Senator Wyckoff made the second. All approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Senator Baker made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 1 meeting and Senator Wyckoff made the second. All approved.

4. Provost's Remarks: Gail Hackett

The Provost has begun to go to all the schools, taking with her a two-page update regarding the Strategic Plan. There are 25 groups working on the implementation of the strategic plan and this two-page

summary is also on the Provost's website under Committees. All work groups provide quarterly updates. There were no questions from the Senators.

5. Introduction of Denis Medeiros, Vice Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies

The Provost introduced Denis Medeiros to the Senators and he shared a brief personal resume and where his office can be found (Room 342 in the Administrative Center). The Chair welcomed Dr. Medeiros and said that the campus is lucky to have him here.

6. Emeritus College: Nancy Mills

Nancy Mills, now retired and former Dean of the School of Nursing.

Dr. Mills explained that her charge from the Provost is to determine what emeritus colleges are doing and what benefits might be generated for UMKC, thus implementing a part of the Strategic Plan. A small group of 13 or so retirees has been meeting to investigate what other institutions are doing in this area.

The emeritus college is viewed generally as an entity for retired faculty members, to enable them to continue their skills, their scholarly activities, etc., with the University and to avoid a brain drain of their rich knowledge base. Emeritus colleges have no curriculum, no students, no degree and some of them have low resources.

Dr. Mills stated that maintaining and updating the emeritus database is a challenge. A first question the committee is considering is whether retirees are interested in the concept and if so, in what activities are they interested? Space that is desired would include a place for the dean or director, a reception area, some small meeting area, a social area and a work station to use computers. The Chair offered the warning that the campus has an IT policy that might frustrate the securing of computers.

The Provost explained that this group is talking about modest shared space rather than individual offices.

Dr. Mills concluded with the committee's goal to generate a report and make recommendations. One Senator asked how many retirees are granted emeritus status? It is not known how elite this group is.

7. General Education Oversight Committee motion: Gerald Wyckoff

Senator Wyckoff explained that this motion was revised in light of the last meeting's discussion and he believes all concerns are addressed in this latest version. It is not intended or expected that this proposal will add credit hours to existing degree programs; the articulation issue will be addressed as the model is developed. The first tier of General Education requirements will be assessed at the University level whereas each school has authority to add their own courses in a second tier of Gen Ed requirements. The 30 hr block is likely to be a melding together of new courses and some that already exist.

This motion gives approval to develop the model. Senator Wyckoff stated that what is currently being considered is what courses already exist that can be a part of this model with little or no modification.

Senator Hermanns asked to what extent do we have a choice?

Regarding a concern about the governing authority for the Gen Ed first tier, the chair stated that is something the Senate will need to talk about during the next semester.

The Provost said we are doing this because it will be a great benefit for those students who need to change their majors--which is a huge issue. [No numbers have been presented to support how many students are impeded by the current system]. Faculty will make all the decisions, they will be involved in creating it.

To the concern that was expressed regarding the difficulty of meeting the Student Learning outcomes in the first two years only, Wyckoff responded that not every bit of the framework will be met by the end of the second year but by graduation. Additionally some portion of the 30 credit hour block may be met by high-impact learning experiences [internships, rotations, et.] that occur after the second year.

Another Senator asked what prevents the GEOC from going ahead with developing the model without the approval of the Faculty Senate. The answer given was that we have to have this model campus wide to give it legitimacy, as was done with the student learning outcomes last year.

The Chair reminded the Senators that each has the responsibility to bring back all the things discussed here to their unit's faculty and to bring back their questions. Rumors are the worst things to have. The Faculty Senate needs to play an important role right now and by 2013 there will likely be a General Education senate committee to look after the curriculum and also to conduct the analyses of the program.

Senator Hermanns wanted reassurance that there will be more than one way to meet the learning outcomes and that it won't have to be within the first two years. Wyckoff confirmed that understanding.

When asked about the situation of the transfer students, it was answered that the model would not be requiring them to do all the 30 credit hours. We do that currently by asking transfers to take the WEPT and a writing intensive course. The transfer question is another part of what still needs to be worked out.

Another concern was that although the target is 2013 we may not make that. The Higher Learning Commission has us primarily accountable for doing Assessment. Senator Baker responded that as long as we are working on this, the HLC is likely to be satisfied. The Provost replied she needed to check with Cindy Pemberton, but things may not be as loose as that. If we are not making satisfactory progress, we will be switched back to a site visit which we would like to avoid at any cost.

Motion proposed by Secretary Burnett:

To amend the presented motion by adding: "Each School and College will conduct a pilot assessment of the General Education Student Learning Outcomes by December 2012. These results should inform the development of the General Education curriculum."

Seconded by Senator Taylor. Some senators expressed support for the motion, however the anticipated workload was a negative. For some, the idea of making the new courses to satisfy all the student learn outcomes in the Fall semester is too much work. The original proposal on the table states that the individual units don't have to worry about assessment for General Education. The Provost responded that she believes that General Education assessment should be at the university level.

Vote on the motion: 2 abstentions; 4 votes for, 18 against. The motion failed.

Approved Minutes -4

The main motion was then taken by a written ballot. While tabulating the votes, some business continued.

Nominations for the Teaching Awards Committee were invited. Senator Sohraby nominated himself, and Senator Wyckoff seconded the nomination. All Senators were in support.

Dr. Gerkovich then nominated herself to the Parking Committee, to replace Senator Baker who will be on leave next semester. All approved.

The results of the ballot motion were: in favor: 21; opposed: 2. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m..