

Report

The Voice of the U.M.K.C. Faculty

November 7, 2000

Note: This meeting of the Senate was concerned with routine (but important) issues of governance. We both had committee reports and met with the Chancellor. Issues included the administrative evaluation procedure, computing policy and the relationship of the Blueprint committees with other faculty groups on the campus.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative issues: There are several 4-year reviews of administrators that are going forward, and there are some 2-year preliminary reviews that are also scheduled. Nobody has called for a delay. Additionally, when Joan Gallos was appointed as the Dean of the Education School there was a promise to the faculty that there would be a one year review of her.

- ❖ **Two-year review:** Deans Piepho (Dentistry), Powell (Law) and Reed (Dentistry). Dean Applebaum (Conservatory) and Director Hetherington (Computer Science) would have been up for a two year evaluation but both are leaving the University.
- ❖ **Four-year review:** Dean Mills (Nursing), Martiniez-Carrion (SBS) & Director Sheldon (Library)
- ❖ **Special one-year review:** Dean Gallos (Education)

At UMSL the results of the administrator evaluations are posted on the web. There was some discussion of whether we wanted to do the same thing, since in the past faculty evaluations weren't seriously considered by the administration. Chancellor Gilliland has said that she will look carefully at the evaluations. The Senate didn't vote on this issue, but the consensus seemed to be that this year we would handle the evaluations as we always have: they would be shared with the faculty chairs and faculty of the relevant schools.

Members of the Administrative Issues Committee are Steven Dilks (English), Senator Laura Gayle Green (Library), Louis Imperiale (Foreign Language), Kathy Krause (Foreign Language) and Thomas Stein (Conservatory). Senator Linda Collier (Communication Studies) is the Chair.

Campus Computer Committee: A report from the Campus Computer Committee representative indicated that there were many faculty computer committees active, and

there has been adequate faculty input into issues involving central computing. But, in response to questions from Senators, he agreed that it appeared the decision about personal computers (replacing some with a “basic” computer, and having rather expensive upgrades from that) was taken by Kimczak alone. Apparently no faculty committees were involved. Several Senators questioned the utility of having several faculty committees, but then failing to consult with them about decisions or paying little attention to their advice. We were not sure that was happening, but we will talk with Kimczak about the issue at the next Senate meeting.

Health insurance: Costs have gone up sharply, especially for those who belonged to the Humana HMO. Part of that is because the university wanted to keep the benefits package the same as it has been, though it is possible that will change. The University pays about 70% of the costs for a single faculty member’s health insurance, and that has increased slowly over the years. The *Faculty Share* money is not coming from the health insurance fund, but several Senators thought it should be diverted into that fund.

Budget Committee: Profs. Ebersole (Religious Studies) and Holder (Chemistry) were appointed to the Senate Budget Committee. Interim Vice Chancellor Scott is willing to work with the committee.

MEETING WITH THE CHANCELLOR

Blueprint: Both the Chancellor and the Senate were concerned with the issue of the relationship between the Blueprint process and the Senate. Additionally the work of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee had been suspended while the Blueprint Process unfolded. There are currently several different committees making recommendations on policy issues, and Blueprint committees -- though often broadly reflective of the faculty -- were not elected by faculty. It wasn’t clear which group people should go to if they had an issue or problem. There wasn’t conflict between the various groups, but there was confusion as to roles, etc. The Chancellor said that when organizations put new plans in place it needed to be done initially with *ad hoc* groups. These then had to be merged with established organizational structures. This process needed to begin, and both the Chancellor and the Senate thought we should meet with the various Blueprint groups to discuss our relationship, and the relationship between the Blueprint process and other faculty groups. Chair Mills said that several meetings had already been set up.

Enrollment management: We briefly discussed the issues in this area. The Chancellor said that increased enrollment was desirable on all levels, from freshmen to Ph.D students. It was also important that we get good students. Since the purpose of attracting/retaining students is to increase revenue it isn’t possible to simply attract students by increasing scholarships. The Deans were currently considering how to achieve a desirable combination of numbers and quality, and several Senators made suggestions about different ways to increase the number of good students or to use our funds more wisely in this area.

Graduation: Some students are unhappy that commencement tickets are rationed. They might be the first person in the family to graduate from college or graduate/professional school and sometimes many people wanted to attend the graduation. The Chancellor said that she recognized that there was a problem, but last year the number of people that came exceeded the seating capacity of the building, so some type of rationing policy needed to be put in place. Other alternatives are being examined, including having one big graduation and then a breakout into individual schools for smaller ceremonies. If we had one large graduation it would need to take place off campus.

Safety: The issue of smoke detectors and compliance with general city fire and safety rules was raised. There was some confusion at the meeting (the discussion veered off into a general discussion of safety on the campus) but afterwards the issue was clarified, and a meeting between Senator Linda Voigts and Interim Vice Chancellor Bill Scott was arranged. He said that it is campus policy that smoke detectors be installed in all university rental houses. All renters of university houses will be notified they should have detectors, and will be told how to arrange to have the housing office install them if their house(s) lack smoke detectors. A brief report on the issues will be made at the next Senate meeting. Senator Voigts had raised the safety issue at the last Senate meeting and seemed satisfied with Scott's response.

Respectfully submitted

Harris Mirkin,
Faculty Secretary