Bye Ed, Hi Kathleen

Ed Mills formally resigned as Chair of the Faculty Senate. Chancellor Gilliland presented him with a plaque commending his work as Chair. Mills, in turn, commented that at UMKC he had been blessed with the opportunity to chair the Senate, and praised the dedication of Senators. The position also allowed him to meet many people, and had involved him in the BluePrint process. Finally, he said he was blessed to work with a great Education School faculty.

Kathleen Schweitzberger (Library, Vice-Chair) will assume the Chair’s position until the election in the Fall 2001 term.

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Issues discussed in this Report:

- Structure of the Graduate School
- The budget and proposed salary increases. Chancellor says that funds will come out of reserves, not reallocations.
- New budget procedures
- New Education School issue
- Undergraduate Council
- Faculty governance issues

Read the stories for all the exciting details.

Note: Senators discussed the questions they wanted to ask the Chancellor before she came in. Unfortunately, we had several questions and she had only a limited amount of time. Still, the questions and discussion were important.

Education School: The Chancellor placed a freeze on academic searches in the School of Education. Faculty heard, through the grapevine, that there were references to a dysfunctional faculty culture and a need for healing, but had not been involved in any discussion of the issues. Senators from the School said the freezes came at a particularly bad time, since various accreditations were coming up and whole programs were run by part time and adjunct faculty. Some searches had been completed, and those offers were to be honored.

In response, the Chancellor said she would meet with the faculty within two weeks to discuss what was done and have a conversation about the issues.

Budget, 4% salary increase pool, no reallocations: The Chancellor said that this was a transitional year in which the administration tried to get a chaotic budget process under control. In the previous process many commitments were “off budget” (no money was allocated during the budget process) and were subsequently covered by money recaptured from the units (because of unfilled salary lines, etc.) during the year. Next year units will get a firm allocation at the beginning of the year. The
Chancellor said that, though the amount will be reduced from previous years, it will be a solid commitment and units will retain any cost savings.¹ She argued that this would allow the deans to exercise tighter budget control. [Subsequent to the Senate meeting, people familiar with budgets pointed out that the units are getting a decrease in “rate money.”]²

The Chancellor said the 4% salary increase pool was being funded out of reserves. U M K C is in good shape and can cover this year’s cost. Of course the costs incurred by the salary increase will continue into the future. The Chancellor argued that if these could be covered if we developed new and exciting programs that attracted additional students and resources. The goal, she said, is to make the pie bigger, not worry about dividing up meager current resources. She also said the BluePrint consultant costs are one time dollars, not a recurring cost.

**Council on Undergraduate Education:** Senators asked where questions of curriculum were being addressed in the BluePrint process, since the Council for Undergraduate Education had been dissolved. The Chancellor said they could be addressed wherever a group of faculty wanted to deal with them. She argued that the old thinking placed emphasis on committees and reports. She thought committees stood in the way of faculty ownership and engagement. Some Senators expressed doubt about the lack of structure, and thought the Undergraduate Education Committee could play a useful role. The Chancellor didn’t seem to have studied the curriculum issues much, and finally said the issues would be handled by the new Provost.

**Graduate School structure**

Pat Hovis, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, gave a short report and answered questions. The School has recently revised its by-laws. She briefly outlined the role of the newly named Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee.³ The new bylaws are posted on the graduate school website. Most of the changes are minor.

There was a question about the graduate dean setting the agenda. Hovis said that, as far as she knew, this was merely technical and any member of the Ph.D. Executive Committee or the Undergraduate Council could put issues on the Agenda. Was it put at the bottom, after the things the administration wanted? Hovis said that was not done, and several Senators said they never had trouble getting things on the Agenda and didn’t know anyone who did, while several others said that they either had difficulty themselves or knew of people who did.

All Senators agreed that it was the responsibility of the graduate and doctoral faculties, together with the Graduate Council and the new Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive committee to make the changes. We did want to recommend, though, that they change the by-laws to make the role of the faculty more central. We also thought the structure of the two bodies ought to be examined.

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¹ The example used involved a unit that got $1,000,000 in 2001, and had “cost savings” of $50,000 (because a faculty member or administrator had left in the middle of the year). The $50,000 would be captured by the Chancellor’s office and used to pay “off budget” costs. Under the new plan the unit would get $950,000, but would keep any cost savings.

² Money that is allocated each year, as opposed to one-time money. The rate money for each unit is being reduced, but the amount actually available is more certain. There is a dispute as to whether the Chancellor’s plan is beneficial or harmful to the units.

³ The old name, “Ph.D. Executive Committee,” gave the erroneous impression that the committee had oversight over the disciplinary doctoral programs. These are under the Graduate Council.
At the end of the discussion two different resolutions were presented to the Senate. One was a “Sense of the Senate” resolution that stated:

Whereas in most universities academic programs and curriculum are traditionally the “preserve” and responsibility of the academic faculty;

And whereas the requisite faculties formulate and implement the policies that govern the granting of academic degrees;

And Whereas the Graduate Council and the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee as now constituted under their by-laws and operating procedures are chaired by an administrator and, in the case of both the Graduate Council and the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. executive Committee, five members are appointed to these committees by Chancellor, rather than being elected directly by the faculty;

The Faculty Senate urges the members of the Graduate Council and the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee to revise their respective bylaws and operating procedures to ensure that elected faculty members chair these committees and bring faculty priorities and concerns to them.

The second resolution, which had recommendations for specific changes in the bylaws, stated:

4 A. In relation to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee, the Bylaws may be changed as follows:

Article V, Section 1: “Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee, or by petition of twenty percent of the members of the UMKC Doctoral Faculty as of March 1 of each academic year.”

Bylaws of the interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee
1. Article 11. Section 2 "The Dean of the Graduate Studies shall serve as [sic] the Chairperson of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee and shall be a non-voting member of this committee"
   Proposed change: "The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among the Faculty members of this Committee. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve for a term of 2 years. The Dean of Graduate Studies shall be a non-voting member of this Committee."

2. Article III. Section 1a. "The Dean of Graduate Studies shall be the presiding officer. In the Dean's absence, the designee of the Dean shall preside."
   Proposed change: "The Chair of the Committee shall be the presiding officer. In the Chair's absence, the Vice-Chair of the Committee shall preside."

3. Article III. Section 1d. "The Dean of Graduate Studies shall be responsible for assembling the agenda for regular meetings...”
   Proposed change: "The Chair of the Committee, in consultation with the Dean of Graduate Studies, shall be responsible for assembling the agenda for regular meetings...”

4. Article III. Section 2a. "Special meetings may be called by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies"
   Proposed change: "Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Committee,...”

B. In relation to the Operating Procedures for the Graduate Council, amendments may be proposed as follows:

"Section V. Amendments. These operating procedures may be amended upon a 2/3 vote of the Graduate Council members after consultation with their graduate faculties.”

Operating Procedures and Structure for Graduate Education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City
1. III.B. "Specific Duties and functions of the Graduate Dean:
   Chairs the Graduate council, the Ph.D. Executive Committee, and the Committee of Graduate Officers.”
   Proposed change: "Specific Duties and functions of the Graduate Dean: [delete the following] Chairs the Graduate council, the Ph.D. Executive Committee, and the Committee of Graduate Officers.”

2. III.B.I. The Graduate Council, [add] "The Graduate Council shall elect a chair and Vice-Chair from among the Faculty members of the Council. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve for a term of 2 years. The Dean of Graduate Studies shall be a non-voting member of this Council."
Whereas the mission of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee and Graduate Council overlap considerably; whereas their functions are duplicated, and whereas other universities and other campuses in the University of Missouri system have a single graduate governing body,

- Be it therefore resolved that a task force be established with members of the Faculty Senate and each of the graduate governance groups to investigate fusing the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee and Graduate Council.
- Be it also resolved that said task force consults with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies for the purposes of clarifying the role of the Dean in a fused council.

After some discussion we decided to table both resolutions and simply recommend them to the attention of the graduate faculties and organizations. We will discuss the issue again in the Fall.

The end: Leah Gensheimer (Psychology) did an immense amount of work as Chair of the Academic Affairs committee and we gave her an ovation... We discussed the possibility of proposing a BluePrint breakthrough project on faculty governance... We decided to put the issue of part time faculty on our first Agenda in the Fall [A letter sent to your Secretary from a pat-time instructor said that many part time people engaged in research and service, even though the activities were neither encouraged or compensated]... The Senate Report of April 3rd was approved.

Have a good summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Harris Mirkin,
Faculty Secretary

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3. 111B.2. "The Committee of Graduate Officers. The Committee is composed of the Graduate Officers of the academic units. The Graduate Dean or Associate Graduate Dean chairs the Committee"
   Proposed change: "The Committee of Graduate Officers. The Committee is composed of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Graduate Council and a representative elected from the doctoral faculty for each of the academic units. The Committee shall be chaired by the Chair of the Graduate Council. The Graduate Dean and Associate Graduate Dean shall be non-voting members of the Committee"

4. 111. B.4. "The 15-member Ph.D. Executive Committee, chaired by the Graduate Dean,..."
   Proposed change: "The 15-member Ph.D. Executive Committee, chaired by the faculty member duly elected Chair of that Committee,..."

5. III.C. "The Academic Units.... Each Dean may delegate his or her administrative duties relative to graduate studies to a Graduate officer who holds a regular faculty appointment and is a member of the graduate faculty. (The Dean determines the Graduate Officer for the academic unit,...)"
   Proposed change: "The Academic Units.... Each Dean may delegate his or her administrative duties relative to graduate studies to a Graduate officer who holds a regular faculty appointment and is a member of the graduate faculty. (The Graduate Officer for the academic unit shall be duly elected by the graduate faculty in that unit,...)"

5. III.C.2.c. "Ex-officio Graduate faculty.... Responsibilities... To serve on the Graduate Council if selected."
   Proposed change: "Ex-officio Graduate faculty.... Responsibilities... [delete the following] To serve on the Graduate Council if selected."