FACULTY SENATE REPORT

October 5, 2004

Major Topics

Senate Budget Committee
Conflict of Interest Working Group
Windows Logon Screen

Announcements

Welcome of three new senators: Tom Mardikes (A&S), and Stephen Neau (Pharmacy), both present, and John Cleek (Bloch).

Provost’s Report

Provost Osborne indicated that there would be a $10 million draw-down from the $26 million end-of-year balance of all units, together with a transfer of the Curators’ mandate to the central administration that an end-of-year fund balance of 5% of the budget be maintained. The funds will transfer into the plant fund so that the construction of the Health Sciences I building can start, even though ultimately gifts together with capital appropriations are expected to pay for this building, and possibly the Student Center.

The UM System decision has been made that the $1 million plan for electronic journal access, beginning in January 2005, will be realized by matching $500,000 new rate funds with campus funds, provided for UMKC by the Provost. Other new rate funds make the matched funding of up to four endowed chairs for UMKC possible, two of which have already been matched by Henry Bloch and two that are “up for grabs”. There will be $4M in new scholarship money system-wide, with UMKC receiving 50 scholarships.

New strategic initiatives involve the Libraries, the Conservatory and Informatic Medicine.

The Provost accepted the medical leave accommodation policy, proposed and accepted by Senate in April 2004, and will provide the occasional financial support for this policy, should that be necessary and requested.

Upon the request of the Senate, the Deans Council has decided to start producing Minutes of its meetings. These will be made available to assist in discussion and information sharing on school- and campus-wide issues.

The Libraries have been asked by the Provost to develop a workload policy. A senator asked whether this is a request to establish a workload policy for non-regular faculty, just for that unit. The Provost responded that in his view implicit
or explicit workload policies for non-regular faculty exist in all schools, typically as part of the school workload policy for regular faculty.

**Budget Committee Report**

Jim Durig, Chair of the Budget Committee, indicated that more and better faculty representation is needed on the Budget Advisory Committee which currently has only Durig and Ebersole as official Faculty Senate representatives. Replacement of the expiring membership on this committee is anticipated after the roll-out of the Budgeting for Excellence plans has taken place. He indicated that the budget is “one pot” of general operating funds which includes both tuition and the state appropriation. He presented figures for FY 02, 03 and 04. This information will be posted on the Senate website. There was a question raised regarding the criteria used to determine the budget for each academic unit in the budgets for these fiscal years. Some items, e.g. a 221% increase in an item covering utilities, raised some questions. Durig promised to get answers. Provost Osborne indicated that with the “Budgeting for Excellence” academic units’ incomes are related to teaching production, e.g. medical students’ tuition at the graduate (not medical school) SCH rate will go to units which teach these students. There will be a presentation to the Senate in November of the Budgeting for Excellence plan.

**Conflict of Interest Working Group**

Peter Wilden, Faculty Fellow in the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, presented a report of the Conflict of Interest Working Group. He handed out and discussed four documents which are on the Senate website: an overall outline, a report of the Working Group, a Guide to Managing Converging Interests, and a copy of the applicable Curators’ policies CRR 330.015 and 420.030.

**Windows Logon Screen**

Provost Osborne and Mary Lou Hines, CIO and Vice-Provost, addressed the Windows logon screen issue that has arisen. The Provost apologized for the screen and indicated that it had been withdrawn. He indicated, however, that CRR 110.005 remains in effect. The screen arose from a recommendation following an audit by Price Waterhouse. Mary Lou Hines indicated that there had been some problems and some abuse by faculty, e.g. peer-to-peer sharing, and that the system received some 150,000 malicious “hits” daily. A lengthy discussion followed during which several faculty, including an invited law specialist Bob Popper, a former dean of the Law School, stressed the need for and asserted the right to privacy. The sense developed that an ad-hoc Senate committee should be established to review the privacy rights and to propose a local policy that protects our rights, to propose changes to CRR 110.005 that appear necessary, and to evaluate whether a faculty oversight committee should be formed to monitor compliance with our rights.

Excused: Loncar.