

UMKC Faculty Senate meeting
November 27, 2007
Miller Nichols Library, Rm. 303

Present: Ebersole, Driever, Holsinger, Honigberg, Price, Durig, Hopkins, Mardikes, Potts, Beard, Knopp, Fieldman, Stein, Rice, Whitt, Carbone, Luppino, Mullaly-Quijas, Johnson, Foxworth, Stanley, Ward-Smith, Schubert (Staff Council)

Excused absences: Green, Stancel, Krause, Marken

Absences: Arora, Crossland, Butner, George, Yang, Gutheil

Guests present: Ron MacQuarrie, Burton Taylor, Derek Simons, Doug Swink, Jennifer Dehaemers, and Mel Tyler

1. Chair Gary Ebersole called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm and asked for any suggested changes to the agenda. None were presented from the floor.
2. Information items. Alex Holsinger was welcomed as the new IFC representative. Senators were reminded of the Curators breakfast this Friday morning. Three faculty members are to speak at the breakfast on projects representing the three missions of UMKC: Amanda Denning, a public relations specialist, will speak for Carol MacArthur on her research on AIDS in the Cameroon, Jake Wagner is speaking about the work of faculty and students in the Department of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design, and William Everett is talking about the accomplishments of faculty and students in the area of music history. The Chair announced that the one-page form for students to petition a new grade to be calculated into their gpa after repeating a course is now ready; senators received copies of it. The new faculty leave policy will not be ready to go into effect on January 1, but the Board of Curators should act on approving that new policy in January. Doug Swink has asked for a faculty volunteer to serve on a committee overseeing the new catalog; no one volunteered at the meeting. Finally, the Chair reported that the second Senate meeting scheduled for December would likely not meet due to the late date of December 18; senators will be notified later.

John Foxworth reported on the Committee that is to report on the faculty tenure and promotion process. The Committee looked for controversial cases at various levels of the P and T review process. Subsequently, the Committee has met with several individuals with knowledge over the P and T process and will meet with the Provost and, hopefully, with the Chancellor. He reviewed several of the questions that had been asked in the interviews. After finishing the interviews, the committee will submit a full written report to the Senate and will meet with the Senate.

3. Ron MacQuarrie reported that Administration and Finance is collecting data in response to Senate questions over the 1% pool money. Memorandum 35 as revised is

under review by the General Counsel's office. The procedural changes related to communication with the Provost and Chancellor are going into effect this year. The Dec. 14 commencement will take place as before; however, the May commencement may be held in a different manner. A couple of dean searches are underway: at the Conservatory and Computing and Engineering. Chair Ebersole asked about the composition of the search committee of Computing and Engineering – how many faculty were serving? Ron MacQuarrie stated that the Collected Rules and Regulations (CRR) specified that the Chancellor will appoint the committee and that faculty and staff will be on such a committee. A senator from Engineering and Computing complained that the school's by-laws were not being followed, but then it was clarified that the CRR supercede school by-laws. Chair Ebersole recommended that the Senate consider passing a sense of the Senate resolution that search committees for a dean consist of at least half of the faculty from the school concerned. Another senator suggested that the Chair of a search committee for a dean also have the Chair from that school. **It was moved that it is the sense of the Faculty Senate that the majority of members on a search committee for any dean be from the faculty of the school concerned and that the chair of such a committee also be from that school.** The motion was seconded. Twenty-one votes were in favor and there was one abstention.

Ron MacQuarrie reported that the university is considering joining the University Leadership Council to have access to its consulting searches and leadership studies. Multi-media technology services are being relocated to University Communications. The Interim Provost is redefining and streamlining the Provost's budget. A detailed report is forthcoming. An Information Technology Council is being considered by the Provost to assist with oversight of technology on campus. A detailed report is forthcoming. Chair Ebersole added that the Provost is planning to add support for the Faculty Senate for 2008-09 to her budget planning.

4. Burton Taylor shared highlights of new legislative priorities for UMKC and for UM. He wanted Faculty Senate support for the following priorities: core appropriations (4.2% increase), health care initiative (\$11 million increase for campus), funding to complete the health sciences building, and competitive faculty compensation package (\$3.5 million from the State for fiscal 2009 for all four campuses, which would be matched through internal reallocations). Handouts of the four priorities were provided. A senator asked if money was to be set aside for more classroom buildings. Mr. Taylor replied that the University is working to get more support from the legislature for capital improvements. The Chair suggested that we invite some legislators to campus to educate them on the need for new physical facilities; Mr. Taylor said that he would be happy to work with the Senate on such a matter. Senators asked for a report on what sort of college degrees the legislators have. **Moved that the Faculty Senate support the legislative priorities as presented by Burton Taylor on behalf of the University of Missouri System.** A couple of senators expressed concern over the exact numbers and if they were sufficient, particularly for salary adjustments. Staff Council representative suggested that the Staff Council be asked for its support. The vote was unanimous (20 yeas) in support of the Chair's motion.

5. Senator Mardikes reported on COSCO's work to date on making recommendations for revising the faculty grievance process. He reported on the pilot grievance procedure at UMC, which has an investigating officer from the faculty and five grievance panels ready to hear cases. Campus mediation could be more prominent in a revised procedure. The time limit for the grievance procedure would likely remain at 180 days. COSCO is also considering a flow chart that would clarify the steps involved in the process of a grievance. COSCO also is considering listing what sort of actions might result from a grievance. The Committee is recommending that Staff Council consider the grievance procedures for staff. COSCO will submit formal recommendations for grievance procedure changes later, but will not undertake the actual rewriting of the procedures in the CRR.

6. Senator Tom Stein reported on standard operating procedures for the Faculty Senate that will eventually be voted on. He asked for senators to look over the proposed procedures and recommend any possible changes. (They have been distributed electronically to senators.)

7. Senator Hopkins reported on the Senate Subcommittee working on drafts of statements on academic freedom for the University website. They are working on a definition and a philosophical statement explaining academic freedom. The final statements will be brought to the full Senate for approval.

8. Chair Ebersole requested that our webpage on "intellectual diversity" be altered to have the title "Intellectual pluralism." There was discussion over the latter term. One senator asked for the original statements of the Curators over the concept of "intellectual diversity." She was also interested in the precise origins of the Emily Brooker incident facts. Mr. Taylor pointed out that the UM System making its own public statements on intellectual diversity would preclude the legislator making mandates of the University over such statements.

9. Mel Tyler, Jennifer DeHaemers, and Doug Swink responded to two concerns of faculty: the changing of the Swinney facility fee schedule and the Pathway system for class enrollment. Mel Tyler reported on the former. He reported that the fee structures were put in place in 1988 when funding procedures were quite different. He said that the new fees for non-students were more comparable to what other facilities in the KC area were charging; UMC was double what UMKC was proposing in the fee increase. A household (as opposed to just a spouse) membership was made available, for those 18 and over, for the \$10/month increase. Mr. Tyler said that the increase in fees was necessary to maintain the facility and provide the athletic services that people expect.

As for registration on Pathway, the question was asked why special topics courses do not have informative titles indicating the topic taught. It was pointed out that such informative titles are necessary to attract students to enroll in courses that are often innovative, new courses. Mr. Swink said that he would try to correct that problem. Mr. Swink reported that there is a source on the website where one can print out a PDF on all the courses offered in a semester; he will send information on that link to the Chair who

will, in turn, forward that information to the Faculty Senate. One senator who happens to be an academic advisor complained that the Pathway system is difficult and time-consuming to use. One senator asked why when a unit offers a new course it is put at the end of the line for allocation of classroom space. He asked why we must work from old printouts of galleys to schedule courses for half a year from now. Another senator suggested that announcements going out to advisers should also be made accessible to students when the announcements deal with course flyers and such. Mr. Swink suggested that a group be formed to look at scheduling of courses, assignment of classrooms, and related matters essential to increasing enrollments.

Jennifer DeHaemers announced that there is an Admissions Committee examining procedures and formulating recommendations to make it easier for students to enroll. One senator asked about the dual-credit program at the high schools, and Ms. DeHaemers replied that we do receive information when those students inquire about admissions or apply to UMKC.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven L. Driever
Acting Secretary