Faculty Senate Agenda
Tuesday, 4 March 2008
Plaza Room, Administrative Center, 3-5pm

1. Welcome – Ebersole

2. Information Items
   a. All-faculty meeting planned for 4/7/2008 from 11am-1pm in Pierson Auditorium, University Center.
   b. Call for nominations for Faculty Senate officers; can e-mail nominations to fsaic@umkc.edu.

3. Approval of Minutes
   a. 19 February 2008 minutes
      i. Honigberg moved, Foxworth seconded. Passed unanimously.

4. Provost Gail Hackett
   a. As a result of meeting with Chancellor Bailey, Hackett has identified five issues to tackle quickly. Faculty will recognize these issues are not new or different. They are:
      i. UMKC needs to put some focus on its efforts for undergraduate students
         1. Not every unit will need to do the same things for the undergraduate population
         2. Includes addressing undergraduate enrollment and looking at the undergraduate experience at UMKC. Need to strengthen academics in some areas, look at retention, look at messages relayed and portrayed to local high school and community college students regarding the undergraduate program at UMKC.
      ii. Urban engagement mission needs a shared vision and understanding. While many people have worked on this issue, it’s a matter of pulling the mission together and clarifying the vision.
      iii. Need to work with the Deans to acquire resources needed to achieve goals. With the new budget model, it’s imperative to diversity revenue streams, and especially important to move away from depending on the state budget for core revenue.
      iv. Need to enhance visibility of UMKC’s faculty through scholarship, research and creative activity.
v. Need for transparent, open communication.
vi. Sees need for support for other forms of academic leadership
development, particularly for department chairs. Need to work with
deans to make sure department chairs and faculty are in the
communications loop.
b. Question from a faculty member about department heads statement. The goal
is to help chairs be more informed and recognize the action happens at the
department level. Department chairs usually need support than they receive in
general.

c. Hackett recognized the need for greater communication among department
chairs and directors.

d. A senator asked about clarification regarding statement about strengthening
undergraduate general education curriculum. Hackett says that she has heard
from a number of people that this issue needs further examination, has not had
a lot of attention paid to it. She does not have a particular agenda. Another
senator noted that this is a controversial issue across campus; faculty are
resistant to large scale changes.

e. Another senator asked Hackett to note that there are a number of processes
that are not efficient. These processes may not be supervised by Hackett, but
affect faculty and their work. Hackett would like to see more information
available through the UMKC web sites.

f. Chair Ebersole asked Hackett to carry the word to the deans and others that
shared governance is important to the work of the university.

g. Another senator asked Hackett for her thoughts on student retention. Hackett
noted this is an issue we must focus on; needs to be looked at in the context of
undergraduate education. On-campus students usually do better because they
are more connected to the university, more engaged with faculty and the
university community. A retention task force exists and is working on
recommendations.

h. Another senator asked Hackett what she thinks the research profile is of UMKC
or what it should be. Hackett notes there are some programs that are doing
well, some great research going on. She thinks that is something that needs to
be examined program by program; different expectations for funding from
discipline to discipline. Clearly the medical school could do a lot better; Dean
Drees is working on that. In order to attract the kinds of scholars, artists and
others, we need great facilities. The lack of facilities is crippling UMKC in
recruiting and retaining faculty – and affects enrollment issues as well.
i. A faculty member also asked about faculty workload. Hackett noted this is an issue for further discussion with deans and notes that one size does not fit all across units.

5. Miller Nichols Library update – Dean Sharon Bostick, Steve Alleman
   a. Announces new Head of Collections, Steve Alleman, from University of New Orleans.
   b. New expansion and renovation of Miller Nichols Library. FAQ sheet distributed. Innovative project to make library more relevant for the community.
   c. $70 million project to be done in 3 phases
      i. Automated Storage Retrieval System (ASRS, aka The Robot)—handout distributed. (done 10/2009)
         1. 3 minute retrieval
         2. There will be a number of heavily used items on open shelves in the library; decisions to be made in consultation with faculty.
         3. Keeps items “stored” on site.
         4. Working to improve access through MERLIN Library Catalog.
      ii. Classroom wing
         1. Will connect to the library, but outside the library secure zone.
         2. Classrooms will be booked through central scheduling.
         3. Will include one 300 seat lecture hall, two 80 seat classrooms, two 40 seat classrooms, and more. Will link to the library at the 1st and 3rd levels.
      iii. Renovated library space including writing center, FACET, Center for Academic Development, WHMC (completed 2011)
         1. Will include 40 group study rooms.
         2. Will include expanded information commons, more flexible study space.
         3. Will include library classrooms for library instruction.
      iv. Will have a café available in the library.
      v. All classrooms will be ILEs (smart classrooms).
      vi. Have funding for Phase I (ASRS/The Robot).
      vii. Have made recommendation for company to build ASRS.
      viii. Have RFP out for a contractor.
      ix. Will be formally breaking ground late summer/early fall 2008.
      x. Will have a building website with updates.
      xi. Will have great parking, tiered parking, more green space. Want the north face to present a welcoming aspect to the community.
xii. A faculty senator noted the need to clarify there are two campuses – which campus is main depends on the student’s perspective.

xiii. Another senator asked about transit stops at the Miller Nichols Library.

xiv. Another senator asked about expanding access to electronic journals. Bostick responded yes.

xv. Another senator asked about if the remote storage will be able to go down. Bostick responded that we may or may not; our site is problematic.

6. UMKC Alert! Update -- John Allen, Director of Public Relations and University Communications
   a. Several staff from university communications and IS have authorization to broadcast status changes.
   b. On 6 February 2008, decision to close campus came later than usual. At 6am, the decision was made to cancel classes, keep campus open. A few minutes later, the decision was made to close campus. Had not yet initiated notification through new service provider.
   c. Part of the training was how to do notification online, then how to call one of the call centers throughout the US.
      i. Online notification did not work correctly.
      ii. System operator walked UMKC staff through. System update had not been done; provided will now make sure clients are aware of updates.
      iii. When operator put all information in, duration of time was too short for proper notification. Service provider (3n) has now brought call center operation back in-house to provide proper oversight.
      iv. Commitment now from service provider to put out information without delay (30 minute delay occurred on 6 Feb 2008).
   d. The emergency notification is just one part of the communication system – there are web updates and notifications to the media, for example. One senator noted that if you do not reply to a text message on your cell phone, it can get overwhelmed with repeated messages. Allen replied that the length of cycles for each alert can be adjusted.
   e. Another senator suggested that KCUR make announcements when UMKC is closed, as it used to do.
   f. A senator asked how long is a realistic expectation of a campus emergency notification? Allen has asked 3n about the best expectation. General manager is supposed to get back to Allen on what is a realistic expectation.
g. A senator asked about “mailbox full” messages. Is that overridden in the case of emergency notifications? Allen will ask IS and get back to Senate about this.

7. Bylaws discussion – Stein for Administrative Issues Committee
   a. Issue of voting faculty
      i. Question about faculty who are paid by other entities, are they voting faculty (for campus faculty elections) or not and eligible to serve as Faculty Senator and on campus-wide committees?
      ii. Discussion about NTT faculty and their roles in the units; concern expressed about vulnerability of NTT faculty and tenure-track (untenured) faculty.
      iii. Another option is to have Senate seats designated for NTT faculty.
      iv. Another faculty member noted that tenure guarantees academic freedom. From his experience, junior faculty who have not yet earned tenure are vulnerable to pressure.
      v. Proposing revising old section C: the voting Faculty of UMKC for purposes of campus-wide and university-wide elections and service shall consist of all persons who hold regular academic appointments or who are eligible, as determined by the school’s rules and approved by the Faculty Senate.
      vi. Regarding proposed E.2.f., consider having a new election instead of moving to candidate with next-highest votes received.
      vii. E.2.b. and E.2.c. consider moving to three year terms instead of two year terms.
      viii. Will be on 3/18/2008 agenda.

Adjourned at 5:01pm


Excused: Mardikes
Absent: Taylor, Durig, Rice, Schubert.

Guests: Jakob Waterborg; Derek Simons, U-News; Dean Sharon Bostick; Steve Alleman; Bonnie Postlethwaite; Elizabeth Henry; Brenda Dingley; Carole McArthur; Lee Rathbone-McCune; John Allen.