Faculty Senate Report  
Tuesday 19 August, 2008  
Plaza room, Administration Center, 3-5pm

1. Welcome-Ebersole- significant changes have occurred over the summer. Chancellor Bailey has gone to Texas Tech, the Dean of the School of Dentistry is leaving, and Leo Morton has been appointed Interim Chancellor.
   a. Information items
   b. Request for agenda items to be directed to members of the Executive Committee.
   c. Board of Curators will visit on 4-5th September. All are invited to attend the Senate-sponsored breakfast on the 5th.
   d. Request for 3 faculty to give a 5-7 minute presentations highlighting collaborative research and teaching with other units or external entities. Chancellor Morton strongly supports this.
   e. Inter-Campus Faculty Council retreat on 16th September, so we will try to reschedule the Senate meeting to the 23rd.
   f. Request for nominations for University Budget Committee to replace Laura Gayle Green.
   g. Chair will prepare and distribute a policy statement of no tolerance towards sexual harassment/discrimination to be reviewed by the Senate.
   h. Plan to establish an undergraduate council analogous to graduate council.
   i. Senate committees…emphasized that the first item should be to elect a Chair.

2. Approval of agenda.

3. Provost Hackett report
   a. UMKC Chancellor and Dean Searches for School of Dentistry and Bloch School.
   b. Decision Theater
   c. SB 389 Mary Lou Hines
   d. Strategic Planning process to begin this fall.

Chancellors search committee established by President Forsee with nominations from a broad group including the community. Forsee wants a new Chancellor to be named by January 2009. Leo Morton affirmed that search would begin in September. One faculty member felt that the Senate had not had sufficient input into this process. Ebersole reported that the Senate Executive Committee had in fact met with Forsee in late July and had had input into this process. The faculty member still felt it was incumbent upon the Senate at large to have input into this process. Ebersole added further that we had stressed the need to have all the schools represented in order to increase the number on the search committee. Leo Morton said the list of names was “shopped around” to obtain input from as many individuals as possible. Ebersole reported that, as is normal in such cases, the search will be closed until the final list is compiled; then all members of the university community will have an opportunity to meet and vet the candidates.
Two dean searches are underway or about to begin and finalists are expected by February 2009. There is a job description for the Dean of the Bloch School. Dean Reed in the School of Dentistry will step down at the end of September. Provost Hackett said she had received extensive e-mail on the latter issue and wants broad input on the appointment of an interim dean. Hackett hopes to bring in candidates for this position in the spring after a Chancellor is named.

Urban Mission: Provost Hackett discussed a recent visit by Gary Forsee, Chancellor Leo Morton, and herself to Arizona State University to review an exciting tool which can be used for community engagement, research, and pedagogy and particularly for urban planning public affairs and economic decision-making. This is a 360 degree state of the art projection system which is housed within a building and referred to as “Decision Theater”. This is for collaborative decision making in various forms. It has been used in Phoenix in decision making concerning Public Health and Schools and has been undertaken elsewhere. Hackett felt that there is a strong need for an academic basis or core for this to explore how this may be used. Interim Chancellor Leo Morton enthusiastically supported this. He pointed out that UMKC suffers from the fact that not much is well known about it, although there is much going on. He stressed that such a system would stimulate interest and would bring decision makers together on campus. He added that there are many infrastructural developments planned in the KC area such as the commuter rail system, that could benefit and that it is a great teaching tool. Hackett suggested involvement of all the schools in considering this and a faculty member stressed the involvement of the arts.

A short video clip from ASU showing Rick Shangraw presenting this was provided. Hackett said that Leo was already pursuing potential funders and that some sort of endowment would be needed to keep it up and running. Both of these would be externally funded in full.

SB 389 implementation

An update was presented by Mary Lou Hines. A hand-out was presented and she requested feed-back on the 3 options for handling student responses by the 15th September. Information provided by students would be required to be available to other students on line.

Strategic Plan

Hackett said she would like to receive a draft of a strategic plan synthesized from the many tasks forces and studies which have occurred at UMKC over the last few years. She stressed that there was NO MORE NEED for any further studies, and that we just need to summarize the results of the previous studies and develop a rough draft of a plan to be discussed in January 2009 and enacted as soon as possible.

Interim Chancellor Leo Morton, who spent the last two years as Chair of the UMKC Board of Trustees, was introduced. Leo said he saw his role as one of facilitator who would “keep the train moving” in preparation for the new Chancellor.
Sexual Harassment case concerning Haddock and Poston

Grace Hernandez was introduced to respond to questions about the process. She stressed that her role was not to make a judgment but to obtain interviews with all those involved. Leo Morton’s response to this complicated issue was that UMKC fared well. He emphasized that some of these types of cases take years to resolve. Ebersole noted that only faculty can remove tenure from other faculty. The agreement reached also provided for those affected in the lab funded by the grants of Walters Carlos Poston/Keith Haddock to allow them the time to obtain alternative sources of support. One faculty member asked why UMKC paid out $1.1 million to the plaintiffs before the investigation by UMKC took place. Reply: It became evident that UMKC had no formal policy concerning sexual harassment or training procedures in place prior to this and, thus, would have been considered legally culpable. It was reported that when Dean Drees was asked under oath whether she had had any specific training in such matters she stated “no”. The response by UMKC subsequently has been to require specific training for all faculty and staff, including in-coming Deans and Chairs. Another faculty member pointed out that we have the policy under development by the Senate, but now we need a clearly defined process when the rules are broken and in those cases when there is an abuse of power by faculty against other faculty. There was a suggestion of the need for an ombudsman. Grace Hernandez was asked about a newspaper article in which she was reported by Poston & Haddock to have said that they had been exonerated. Grace said she did not use the term “exonerated.”

4. Ebersole requested nominations for the Senate Budget committee. Laura Gayle Green was nominated by Tony Luppino and seconded by John Foxworth. She had already agreed to serve if requested to do so. Green was re-elected by acclamation to a two-year term.

5. The summary report on the IT issue on the agenda to be made by the Secretary was tabled until the next Senate meeting.

6. We await the COSCO report on faculty grievance processes by Tom Mardikes

Present : Ebersole, Fieldman, McArthur, Stancel, Holsinger, Price, Honigberg, Gardner, Taylor, Hopkins, Potts, Beard, Williams, Whitt, Butner, George, Downs, Luppino, Sykes Berry, Alleman, Yang, Foxworth, Ward-Smith, Marken, Schubert, Ziskin

Excused: Gutteil, Davies

Absent: Stein, Stanley (?)