(to be considered for approval at April 22, 2003, meeting of the University Assembly)

UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY MINUTES
UM-ST. LOUIS
February 18, 2003
3 p.m.  Century Room A
Millennium Student Center

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes of the previous meeting (held November 12, 2002) were approved as submitted.

Report from the Chairperson – Dr. Van Reidhead

The Chair reminded senators that there are two Senate meetings (and no Assembly meetings) in March. The first organizational meeting of the 2003-04 Senate will meet to elect a Chairperson, Secretary, and the Committee on Committees. That will be followed by a regular meeting of the 2002-03 Senate. In April, the new Senate and Assembly will meet in a joint session to elect committee members. That will be followed by regular meetings of the 2002-03 University Assembly and Senate. Those meetings will be followed by the annual Senate Banquet. Specific information will be distributed to senators and assembly members with the agendas.

The students will elect both SGA officers and student members of the Assembly in April.

The Chair reported that following the Senate resolution on PeopleSoft, passed in December, Vice President Caruso has agreed to meet with our faculty and staff. He is prepared to bring his top aides and perhaps people from another campus who are in various stages of implementation to discuss our concerns. The Chair inquired if there continues to be interest in such a visit.

Associate Dean Teresa Thiel noted that in December, it appeared that the grants module would start, and we were concerned about how that would occur. With help from Vice Chancellor Arshadi and Ms. Patricia Barton (Arts and Sciences), it has not been as awful as was thought. Dr. Thiel
suggested that there may no longer be a need for such a visit from Vice
President Caruso.

Vice Chancellor Arshadi reported that of the campuses, our conversion to
PeopleSoft was the smoothest. From all units, we have submitted about
100 grants, and there haven't been any problems, he said.

Dr. Lawrence Barton commented that it is much more difficult to apply
for a grant than it used to be, and Dr. Timothy McBride contributed that he
received a lot of help from the Research Office, and "it still isn't great." It
takes a lot longer, he said, suggesting that the problem has not been
solved. However, he went on to speculate that Vice President Caruso
would simply defend PeopleSoft.

Following a brief further discussion, Dr. William Long moved the agenda.

**Report from the Chancellor** – Interim Chancellor Donald Driemeier

Chancellor Driemeier reported that Missouri legislators and Governor
Holden have reached an apparent compromise that narrows the projected
$350 million deficit in the state budget for the current fiscal year to about
$82 million. The agreed-upon solution includes using $150 million in
tobacco securitization funds, making $28 million in additional cuts in state
departments, delaying a $50 million payment to SBC to settle a lawsuit,
and delaying for a year a $30 million appropriation for the construction of
the UMKC pharmacy and nursing building. The compromise moves the
projected mid-year withholding to higher education from $91 million to
$21 million. That reduces the potential cut to the fiscal '03 budget of UM-
St. Louis from about $5 million to about $1.2 million. The Chancellor
said he will meet with the Budget and Planning Committee at 2 p.m. on
February 28 (126 J. C. Penney) to outline various options for absorbing
this cut, as well as other budget issues that have been raised by faculty
since his appointment as Interim Chancellor on January 1.

Chancellor Driemeier commented that while he is pleased that our elected
officials in Jefferson City have reached a settlement that spares us from
additional considerable reductions this fiscal year, he is quite concerned
about next fiscal year. The state is projecting a $1 billion shortfall in tax
revenue, which can only be addressed with new taxes or spending cuts or
both.

The General Officers met last week with President Floyd to talk about the
coming fiscal year. The initial feeling of the UM System is that higher
education will suffer a 5 percent reduction in its core funding from the
state, and that the cost of benefits will increase nearly 30 percent. General Officers also discussed salary increases for faculty and staff and student fees, but did not agree on specific recommendations. The Chancellor promised to keep us informed as these discussions progress.

Prior to the meeting, the Chancellor was asked to comment on four issues involving the annual Chancellor’s Report to the Community, the listing of Budget and Planning meetings, Florissant Road construction, and summer session compensation.

One faculty member has suggested that we cancel the annual Chancellor’s Report to the Community. The Chancellor said he discussed this issue with the vice chancellors and it has been decided to proceed with the event this year. The Chancellor’s Report is the largest single opportunity for this campus to inform the community about the quality of programs and people that make UM-St. Louis so special. It is a proven asset in our fund-raising and friend-raising efforts, he said.

The Chancellor said he was asked to more widely publicize Budget and Planning meeting times and dates. Chancellor Driemeier reported that he has asked Bob Samples to include such announcements in Friday’s Update.

A faculty member inquired if the realignment of Interstate 70 and Florissant Road still includes a direct entrance lane into the campus. The answer is yes. However, we have not acquired all of the land necessary to connect East and West drives into Florissant Road, nor have we acquired all the funding necessary to build the new campus roadway to connect these drives.

The Chancellor reported that he met last week with Vice Chancellor Durham and the deans to discuss compensation for regular faculty who teach in the summer. At issue is a policy change that reduces the level of funding for regular faculty who volunteer to teach summer courses from 10 percent of the 9-month base per class to 2.5 percent of the faculty member’s academic year base for each credit hour taught.

The Chancellor said he would turn to Vice Chancellor Durham for a report on his meeting with the deans during the Senate meeting. He thanked Vice Chancellor Durham and the deans for considering this issue more fully and thanked the Faculty for researching this issue. He said he believes that the changes recommended by the deans provide enough flexibility to allow us to follow the current set of guidelines for this summer session. Also, the Chancellor reported, he has decided to set
aside any savings the University realizes from this policy change into a
special account that can be used for any academic budget shortfalls during
the coming fiscal year.

In closing, he informed the campus of President Floyd’s visit here on
February 25. During his visit the President will be introduced to faculty
members and to the research activities of which we are most proud. This
prompted Dr. William Long to ask how the list of visits was constructed.
It has been a long time, Dr. Long observed, since a new President has
come to visit Optometry. Chancellor Driemeier noted the difficulty of
selecting from many deserving venues. The President has his list of things
he wants to see and of people he wants to visit. One dean suggested that
we introduce him to our emerging elite scholars. The Trauma Center is
doing interesting things and has generated funding, and the Chancellor
thought we would start there.

Dr. Joseph Martinich said he thought that the Highway Department was to
pay the construction costs ($11 million) for the Florissant Road entrance.
The Chancellor reported that the Highway Department did make a net
payment to the campus, but it was always our responsibility to build the
road. The choice was made to use the bulk of those funds in the purchase
of Our Lady Childcare Center.

Dr. Paul Speck asked Chancellor Driemeier to comment on the recent
Board of Curators appointments. Noting that any chancellor who tries to
make statements about any Board group allows himself to get into trouble,
Chancellor Driemeier nonetheless said that he is very pleased with the
nominees.

**Report from the Student Government Association** – Mr. Sam
Andemariam

Mr. Andemariam updated senators on activities of the student body,
including homecoming. He reported that the king and queen elections are
being held online, and he hopes to put elections for the SGA and for
student members of the Assembly online, as well.

There are two student representatives on the Chancellor Search
Committee, it was reported.

On February 28, the SGA will be hosting an Intercampus Student Council
student retreat. On March 3, Mr. Andemariam and the Vice President of
the SGA will be meeting with President Floyd to discuss various issues
involving students.
April is the month for elections, and Mr. Andemariam reported that he is preparing now for the transitional phase. He encouraged all Assembly members to attend the next SGA meeting, to be held on February 28, and invited members of the Assembly to check out the SGA website for more information about the organization’s activities.

Dr. Lawrence Barton asked what issues Mr. Andemariam plans to discuss with the President. Optometry and Nursing students have to bear a large share of student fees, the SGA President commented. Funding inequity will be another topic. The students want to know what the President’s vision is for this campus and how the students fit into it.

Dean Bliss inquired about student residences. Mr. Andemariam said that it is a goal to increase residential life for students on this campus.

**Report from the Budget and Planning Committee** – Interim Chancellor Donald Driemeier

The Chancellor reported that Budget and Planning will meet on February 28. The agenda and accompanying materials will be mailed February 21.

Completing the business at hand, the University Assembly adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Pierce
University Assembly Secretary

(minutes written by Ms. Joan M. Arban, Senate Executive Assistant)