

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
University of Missouri-St. Louis  
Faculty Senate  
January 24, 2017  
202 JCPenney**

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Senate Chair, Dr. Pamela Stuerke. Dr. Stuerke asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the Special Senate meeting with President-Elect Choi on Nov. 29, 2016. The minutes were approved as written.

Dr. Stuerke asked if there were any changes to the Dec. 6, 2016 Senate meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as written.

**Report of the Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Stuerke:**

- Dr. Stuerke announced that the College of Nursing elected Joan Ruppert as the Senator to replace Susan Kendig effective Jan. 1, 2017.
- Dr. Stuerke reported that the Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) met by telepresence in December. Two of the topics discussed were:
  - Proposed CRR on Faculty Standard of Conduct. In addition to sending this draft document to the Senate, Dr. Stuerke sent it to five Senate committees for feedback. She will send the committee feedback to the Senate for its consideration in preparation for discussion and a vote at the February Senate meeting.
  - UM System Inclusive Excellence Framework document. Dr. Stuerke reminded the Senate to send her any feedback about this document. She will forward the comments to IFC.
- Dr. Stuerke reminded the Senate that one of the responsibilities of Senators is to share the information from Senate meetings with their departments. She encouraged them to relay information to their faculty colleagues throughout the year.
- Dr. Stuerke reported that Academic Affairs has asked the Faculty Senate to update the Faculty Handbook. The Handbook hasn't been revised since 2007 and is being updated in preparation for the upcoming HLC review in 2018. She explained that some committees and senators will be contacted for input as she begins working on the Handbook revisions.
- Dr. Stuerke encouraged the Faculty Senate to participate in the Homecoming Chili Cook-off, which is co-sponsored by the Senate. She asked for faculty volunteers to serve the chili on Feb. 15, 2017 from 11:30 – 1:30 in the MSC Century Rooms.
- Dr. Stuerke announced that elections for the Senate will begin soon. She displayed a list of departments who have senators with expiring terms. She explained that full-time faculty in these departments will receive e-mail ballots to vote for their Faculty Senate representatives in the next couple of weeks.

### **Report of the Chancellor, Dr. Tom George:**

Chancellor George presented the following information to the Senate regarding the budget:

- Newly-elected Governor Eric Greitens is withholding \$82M from Missouri colleges/universities which translates to \$4.4M for UMSL. Dr. George does not anticipate that layoffs will be among the options to be presented to the Budget and Planning Committee which meets on Feb. 3.
- Increasing revenue will be among the options considered. Dr. George reported that UMSL just completed a successful intersession with an 18% increase in enrollment. He hopes for a similar outcome for the summer sessions.
- Chancellor George reported that COPHE is discussing a request for tuition waivers. University administrators will be working with Ms. Zora Mulligan, Commissioner of Higher Education, who is expected to set parameters for the waivers.

Chancellor George asked Mr. Rick Baniak, Vice Chancellor for Administration/CFO, to provide details about the budget situation.

### **Budget Update, Mr. Rick Baniak:**

Mr. Baniak reported that the campus community is doing well with this year's budget at this point. UMSL is currently on target to meet the projected budget commitment. He explained that since UMSL is meeting budget expectations, UM System has agreed to allow UMSL to use reserves on a one-time basis to cover the \$4.4M adjustment.

Mr. Baniak explained how the following seven initiatives can strengthen UMSL's financial performance:

- Strength of brand
- Targeted market expansion
- Minimize off-campus hours for enrolled students
- Higher yield on admit/enroll
- Effectiveness and number of recruiters
- Use of summer session/inter-session courses
- New class schedule
- Communication plan

Mr. Baniak provided an overview of the budget for FY 2018 and described the key issues and spending alternatives. He addressed concerns and questions from the members of the Senate.

### **Learning Management System Update, Dr. Andy Goodman:**

Dr. Goodman provided an update on the status of UMSL's transition from Blackboard (MyGateway) Learning Management System to the new Canvas system. He encouraged the faculty to visit [www.umsl.edu/services/ctl/canvas/index.html](http://www.umsl.edu/services/ctl/canvas/index.html) to access workshop schedules, timelines, and "how-to" guides. Dr. Goodman displayed a timeline showing that faculty can begin to migrate courses to Canvas in Spring 2017. The deadline for the final migration of courses to Canvas is Spring 2018. At the end of 2017, Blackboard will be turned off.

Dr. Goodman presented a list of dates and times for workshops to assist faculty as they make the transition to Canvas. Dr. Goodman responded to the Senate's questions.

### **Proposed Non-Tenure Track Promotion Guidelines, Dr. Bill Klein:**

Dr. Klein explained that the Promotion of Non-Tenure Track Committee has been working on NTT promotion guidelines and recommended the proposed document be approved. (The document was provided to the Senate prior to the meeting for their review.) Dr. Klein explained that current department and college guidelines are often vague, inconsistent, and sometimes incomplete. He stated that there are also variations between department and college guidelines which create problems of equity and fairness in promotion. To address these issues, the proposed document clarified the following:

- Standardizes process for promotion across the University
- Standardizes basic requirements across NTT tracks and ranks
- Does not replace special department and program requirements
- Improves clarity for candidates and evaluators
- Improves consistency among ranks and across tracks
- Explains process
- Assigns responsibilities
- Defines roles and documentation

Senate Chair Stuerke asked if there was any discussion about the document. Some senators identified a number of questions or concerns about the document. It was determined that there were significant suggestions that should be submitted to the committee for further discussion. **A motion was made to table this document and send it back to the committee. All were in favor.** The senators should provide their comments and suggestions to Dr. Klein. After the committee reviews the suggestions, the revised document will be returned to the Senate with the edited changes highlighted for final approval.

### **Assessment of Educational Outcomes Committee Report, Dr. Natalie Bolton:**

Dr. Bolton reported that a needs assessment survey evaluating faculty course assessment practices was administered to 1,306 adjunct, tenure-track, and tenured faculty in Spring 2016. The needs assessment survey was conducted in collaboration with the Associate Provost of Academic Affairs and the Assessment of Educational Outcomes Senate Committee. The survey intends to provide baseline data to the Office of Academic Affairs regarding faculty course assessment practices and to assist the Center for Teaching and Learning in developing assessment workshops for faculty related to course assessment strengths and needs.

Dr. Bolton reported that there were 248 responses to the survey. The quantitative findings showed the strengths as “beginning assessment practices” and “student focus”. Dr. Bolton stated that the survey showed the areas for growth were in “assessment design” and “department use of assessment data”. The qualitative findings indicated an interest in universal assessment terminology, department-specific assessment standards, and formal instruction and training. Dr. Bolton stated that the committee’s next steps were to share this data with campus leadership and department heads and to collaborate with the Center for Teaching and Learning to develop assessment workshops.

**Committee on Committees Report, Dr. Alice Hall:**

Dr. Hall presented the following nomination from the Committee on Committees:

➤ Research – Spring Panel

Michele Meckfessel to replace Don Sweeney as the Business representative

**All were in favor of the above nomination.**

**Budget and Planning Committee Report, Dr. Pamela Stuerke:**

In the absence of Committee Chair Sel Dibooglu, Dr. Stuerke announced that the Budget and Planning Committee will meet on Feb. 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the College of Education's Collabitat.

**Other Business:**

Physics and Astronomy Senator Erika Gibb announced that a solar eclipse will occur on the first day of classes in the Fall (Aug. 21). She asked the faculty to be aware that students may want to participate in that event.

**Executive Session:**

The Senate met in Executive Session to consider candidates nominated to receive honorary degrees.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Hall  
Senate/Assembly Secretary

(Minutes written by Loyola Harvey, Faculty Senate/University Assembly Office)