

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Faculty Senate
October 9, 2018
202 JCPenney**

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Senate Chair Alice Hall. Dr. Hall asked for approval of the Senate minutes from the meeting on September 18, 2018. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Alice Hall):

- Dr. Hall announced that the Faculty Senate is hosting the Breakfast with the Board of Curators on Nov. 16. The topic of the breakfast will be Graduate Student Research. Dr. Hall asked the senators to let her know if they have any referrals of dynamic graduate students who could give a good presentation on their thesis at the breakfast.
- Dr. Hall stated that the Senate is again co-sponsoring the Center for Teaching & Learning's colloquium on promotion. She encouraged the senators to remind their colleagues of the following sessions:
 - Oct. 24 @ 12:00 - Preparing for Promotion for NTT Faculty
 - Oct. 25 @ 12:00 - Preparing for Promotion to Full Professor
 - Oct. 25 @ 3:00 - Preparing for Promotion & Tenure Review (Tenure-Track Faculty)
- Dr. Hall reminded the Senate that the reaccreditation visit with HLC is coming up on November 5-6. To prepare for the visit, an open forum will be held on Oct. 17.
- Dr. Hall reminded the Senate that the open enrollment period for benefits is Oct 15 – 26. She encouraged them to sign up for benefits.

Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Tom George):

Chancellor George reported that the UMSL Founders Dinner was held on October 4 with 750 attendees. He said that the Founders Dinner is an event held to honor donors, alumni, faculty, and staff. This year the Des Lee Medal for Philanthropy was presented to Mary and Joe Stieven. The distinguished alumni awards were presented to the following:

- Ken Cella
- Gwen Moore
- Michael Finkes
- Tori Gillespie
- Aaron Golchert
- Mary Suiter

Chancellor George invited the Senate to watch a video that was shown at the dinner. He explained that the video supports the UMSL mission and the faculty's contributions to the students and alumni.

Textbook Affordability (Ms. Stephanie Eaton & Ms. Sherry Pollard):

Ms. Sherry Pollard, Director of UM System Campus Bookstores, spoke to the Faculty Senate about textbook affordability. She explained that UM System has negotiated with Cengage Unlimited to provide digital textbooks and courseware to students at the cost of \$49.95 per semester. Printed books will be available through free rental (\$8 shipping). This new subscription is expected to become effective on Jan. 1, 2019. Some of the facts regarding the Cengage subscription are as follows:

- Reduction of cost of course materials for students. The estimated savings is \$2.5 million a year system-wide.
- All materials will be provided through auto access on day 1 of class.
- Cengage includes integration with Canvas and full instructor supplements and support.
- It is estimated that about 90% of book titles should be available. When the agreement is finalized, Cengage Unlimited can provide a list of books available.
- When agreement is finalized, the Bookstore will send a document to faculty providing instructions on how materials can be accessed.
- Faculty will not be forced to use Cengage Unlimited.
- No handling of physical books (bookstore savings/efficiency).
- Cengage Unlimited is already used on 26 campuses.

The senators asked various questions about Cengage Unlimited. Ms. Pollard addressed their questions and concerns.

Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) Report (Dr. Jon McGinnis):

Dr. McGinnis informed the Senate about some of the following topics discussed at the IFC telepresence meeting on Oct. 9:

- UM System is planning to change the retirement plan to a defined contribution plan for future new hires to UM System. Current employees will not be affected by these changes to the retirement plan. The Board of Curators has not given the final approval yet.
- Dr. McGinnis announced that the IFC also received a briefing on the Cengage agreement regarding textbook affordability.
- Another IFC topic discussed was that all four campuses are having issues with the campus-unique system workarounds. It has been discovered that the system platforms cannot “communicate” with one another and it is causing difficulties. UM System is reviewing its options on ways that the various platforms can be unified into one system to alleviate the workaround problems.

- In the coming year, the IFC plans to discuss efforts to enhance mid-career development for faculty and discuss improvements in the status of the NTT faculty.

Dr. Hall thanked Dr. McGinnis for his report. She announced that the Senate will now begin some round-table discussions for the first time. These discussions will begin the process of evaluating the need for some of the Senate's committees. Dr. Hall presented the mission statements of the Academic Advisory Committee, the Research Policy Committee, and the University Libraries Committee. She encouraged the attendees to talk about the missions of the three committees and to discuss any ideas on how these committees could be changed or improved.

When the round-table discussions were finished, Dr. Hall asked the attendees to share some of their thoughts about the discussions.

Dr. Hall asked if there was any other business. Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Gibb
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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