

FACULTY SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

Report of the Chairperson
October 16, 2007

1. At the Board of Curators meeting earlier this month, there was continuing focus on the issue of intellectual diversity or intellectual pluralism. Chancellor George received kudos from Curator Wasinger for his leadership in focusing attention to this issue on our campus. The forum on intellectual pluralism sponsored by the Center for Teaching & Learning, held last week, was evidence of our campus' commitment to this issue WITHOUT the need for legislation mandating it.
2. The Curators are trying to deal with the base funding formula that historically has disadvantaged our campus because it doesn't reflect the changes that have occurred on our campus over the decades since it was put into place. They are proposing using a weighted student FTE model, which would better reflect the differential costs of offering graduate and professional programs compared to undergraduate education.
3. The most excitement occurred at the end of the October meeting when Curator Judith Haggard introduced a resolution supporting Interim President Lamb for his bold statement made weeks earlier in favor of academic freedom in research. Dr. Lamb's press release was made against the proposed constitutional amendment that would prevent somatic stem cell research. Two curators abstained from voting on the resolution, ostensibly on grounds that it wasn't properly introduced, and one curator voted against it. The resolution did pass. This was very accurately reported on in *The Current*.
4. On October 8 & 9 I attended the Missouri Association of Faculty Senates meeting in Jefferson City. The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education for the State of Missouri conducted an informal information session on complying with the "consumer information" element of SB389. It dispelled a lot of misinformation that was circulating among the representatives of MAFS. It appears that universities will have considerable freedom in their choice of evaluative information about faculty that they can present on university websites to comply with SB389. No grades and no inter-university comparisons are expected by DHE, and access can be limited to registered students.

The all-day meeting on October 9 was mainly an airing of campus concerns. No real business was conducted. There seemed to be a significant difference in issues between the UM campuses and the other state 4-years. While the reports from UM campuses seemed to focus mainly on the relationship between the state and the university, the other 4-year universities seemed to be more focused on the relationship between their campus administrations and their faculty. I'm not sure what this implies, but the reports from campuses outside the UM system confirmed my belief that the UMSL system of shared governance is working very well.