Minutes of the Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Faculty Senate
September 21, 2021
JCPenney Summit Lounge & Zoom Meeting

Senate Chair Jon McGinnis called the Faculty Senate meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. following the University Assembly meeting. Dr. McGinnis asked for approval of the Senate minutes from the meeting on April 27, 2021. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Jon McGinnis):

- Dr. McGinnis announced that the bylaws that were approved by the Senate and faculty last year received the final approval from the Board of Curators over the summer.

- Dr. McGinnis reminded the senators that the Senate Snapshot will be distributed to them the Friday after Senate meetings. He encouraged them to share Senate information with their colleagues.

Dr. McGinnis asked Chancellor Sobolik if she had any additional information to report to the Faculty Senate. Chancellor Sobolik replied that she did not have anything additional to report.

Committee on Committees Report (Dr. Sanjiv Bhatia):

Dr. Bhatia reported that some faculty changes occurred over the summer which affected some of the members of the Senate’s committees. He presented the following Senate committee replacements:

- Research Misconduct Committee:
  - Alexei Demchenko (Chemistry) left UMSL - Mike Nichols (Chemistry) is willing to serve
  - Vicki Sauter (Business) is retiring - Gaiyan Zhang (Business) is willing to serve

- Research - Spring Panel:
  - James Shuls (Education) left UMSL - Alina Slapac (Education) is willing to serve

- Research & Libraries Committee:
  - Vicki Sauter (Business) is retiring - Brandon Ofem (Business) is willing to serve

- Senate Steering Committee:
  - James Shuls (Education) has been replaced by Amber Candela (Education)

The Faculty Senate approved all of the above replacements.

Intercampus Faculty Cabinet (IFC) Report (Dr. Pamela Stuerke):

Dr. Stuerke reported that the IFC met in person on August 18-19 in Columbia. The IFC met with President Choi and Curators Todd Graves and Greg Hoberock. The highlights of the meeting are as follows:
Presentation from Mr. Ryan Rapp, UM System Chief Financial Officer
- The takeaway is that we have been given some breathing space to adapt to the changing environment funding in higher education. Federal stimulus funding has been substantial and has given us a cushion.
- We have substantial work to do to catch up financially and to remain viable in the future.
- Low state funding and previous tuition caps have limited our ability to address both quality and access. The caps on tuition increases have been removed. All four universities are considering tuition structures and particularly differential tuition. The purpose is to make them more transparent, and to align tuition with cost of the programs and earning potential of graduates. The challenge for UMSL is that, on average, UMSL students are more financially disadvantaged than those at the other campuses.

Presentation from Ms. Marsha Fischer, Chief Human Resources Officer
- Annual enrollment for benefit plans will be held from Oct. 25 – Nov. 5
- The deadline for compliance training completion was Sept. 17. If you haven’t completed the training, please do so. Ms. Fischer explained that a much higher percentage of Title IX violations and information security breaches take place in the first month of the academic year. The training is intended to mitigate those risks.

Presentation from Ms. Beth Chancellor, UM System Chief Information Officer
- IT changes have been driven by security issues and security incidents.
- IT and eLearning are working toward better coordination and better communication.
- Google Drive is being phased out, and One Drive is to be used. This is to mitigate security issues.
- The IFC representatives asked about the “laptop PCs only” policy. Ms. Chancellor said that it was an UMSL-specific policy, not a system-wide policy.
- The IFC received an update on the One Canvas and One Panopto implementation from Mr. Matt Gunkel (eLearning). The IFC representatives informed him of the negative impact of those implementations on the UMSL faculty.

Dr. Stuerke reported that the IFC project for this year is shared governance. A task force will be created to discuss definitions, best practices, and application of shared governance in the UM System and on each of the four campuses. The goal of the task force is a white paper that will be shared.

Dr. Stuerke addressed the questions of the Faculty Senate.

Dr. McGinnis asked if there was any other business. Hearing none, Dr. McGinnis thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Pickard
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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