Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University Assembly and Faculty Senate
September 9, 2014 - 3 p.m.
202 JCPenney

The meeting of the University Assembly was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by the Senate Chair, Dr. Keith Stine. Dr. Stine asked for approval of the minutes from the meeting on April 22, 2014. The minutes were approved as written.

**Report of the Chairperson, Dr. Keith Stine:**
Dr. Stine welcomed everyone to the first Assembly/Senate meeting of 2014-15. He also welcomed Dr. Betsy Rodriguez, UM System Vice President for Human Resources. He stated that Dr. Rodriguez will brief the Assembly on the changes in health benefits.

Dr. Stine reported two changes to the members of the Senate. In the Philosophy Department, Dr. Jon McGinnis replaced Dr. John Brunero. Also, the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department’s senator (Dr. Lee Slocum) is on leave for the Fall. She will be replaced by Dr. Stephanie Di Pietro during this semester.

Dr. Stine stated that an Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) retreat was held on August 19 & 20, 2014. As the UMSL IFC representatives, Dr. Stine, Dr. Matthew Keefer, and Dr. Chris Spilling attended the retreat. Dr. Stine reported on some of the agenda items that the IFC will be discussing this year. The IFC will follow up on the faculty workload document that was discussed last year. The IFC will also be evaluating policies on post-tenure review. A task force was established for the policy review and Dr. Stine will represent UMSL on the task force. Dr. Stine stated that a fit-to-work policy will be discussed. The policy is preliminary and under development. The IFC attendees were briefed on the topic of optimized usage of PeopleSoft. The members also received a presentation about cyber security. Dr. Stine reported that UM System President Tim Wolfe addressed the IFC members about strategic planning and Title IX.

Dr. Stine announced that committee chairs have been elected for all 22 Senate and Assembly committees. He displayed the slides listing all of the committees and the newly elected chairs.

**Report of the Chancellor, Dr. Tom George:**
Chancellor George updated the Assembly on the following topics:

- **Ferguson situation:** Chancellor George reported that the unrest in Ferguson has been very emotional for everyone. Dr. George explained that he was very pleased with the UMSL response. He stated that UMSL has been engaged and responded to the community in many ways such as:
  - UMSL faculty experts from Criminology, Political Science, History, Psychology and Economics held interviews with media.
• Department of Counseling and Family Services sent a 17-person response team to Ferguson-Florissant District to offer assistance to faculty, staff, and administrators.

• Children’s Advocacy Services trained teachers and school administrators on how to handle student fears and recognizing trauma from recent events.

• Center for Trauma Recovery & Community Psychological Service offered free counseling to the UMSL community and larger nearby community.

• Missouri Institute for Mental Health (MIMH) has coordinated efforts to assist Ferguson with mental health issues.

• Social Work Department collected books, school supplies, and snacks for children with delayed starts to school year.

• UMSL held two campus community forums where attendees could share their concerns.

• St. Louis Public Radio (service of UMSL) reported an honest, balanced picture of the facts and also hosted a forum.

• UMSL joined North County Business Recovery Coalition effort to work on action plan regarding economic recovery and advancement of Ferguson in wake of recent events.

• The UMSL Community held a food drive and collected 850 food items for St. Stephen’s food pantry. A secondary drive was held and 2,000-2,500 additional items were collected.

• Chancellor George has asked Ms. Patricia Zahn to serve as the point of contact for coordinating information and activities regarding Ferguson.

➢ **Enrollment:** Chancellor George reported that there has been an increase in on-campus enrollment. It should lead to an overall campus record of nearly 17,000 students.

➢ **College of Business Administration’s International Business Program:**

➢ **Veto Session:** Chancellor George explained that the veto legislative session will occur tomorrow in Jefferson City, MO. The outcome of the session will affect UMSL’s final equity adjustment and funding for specific UMSL projects. Chancellor George will report back on the outcome.

➢ **State of the University Address:** Dr. George invited everyone to his State of the University Address on Sept. 17 at 3:00 p.m. in JCPenney auditorium. He asked them to join him as they recognize their colleagues who will be honored with awards.
**Report of the Staff Association, Mr. Jonathan Lidgus:**
Mr. Lidgus reported that the Staff Association has been busy making plans for the coming year. He reported that there was a great turnout for the Staff Recognition BBQ held on August 15. He received excellent feedback about the event. Mr. Lidgus said that the Staff Association appreciated the support from campus administration and looked forward to continuing the annual event.

Mr. Lidgus explained that Staff Council leadership met with newly elected staff council members for an orientation and explained their role in shared governance. Mr. Lidgus reported that a recent staff feedback poll indicated that there are too many committees in the Staff Association. One of this year’s goals will be to diligently focus on consolidating committees to make them more efficient. Mr. Lidgus stated that Staff Council has also been working with Human Resources. A team of Staff Council members will meet with new employees at their HR orientation and the six month follow-up review for new employees. By attending these sessions, Staff Council hopes to encourage the new employees to become participating members of the Staff Association.

**Report of the Student Government Association, Mr. Cameron Roark:**
Mr. Roark informed the Assembly about “The Big Event” on Sept. 20 at 9:30 a.m. He explained that “The Big Event” is a large community service project organized by students. This year’s event will take place at the Light of Christ Church in East St. Louis. The church provides shelter to the homeless and is in need of repair. Mr. Roark reported that they hope to have about 80-100 students signed up to paint, clean, and repair the church. He encouraged the Assembly to participate.

Mr. Roark reported that the Student Government Association is organizing this year’s Campus Safe Walk which will be held on October 6 at 7:00 p.m. Campus Safe Walk participants will be divided into teams. The teams will walk throughout the campus grounds in the evening to identify any potential safety concerns. The findings will be compiled into a report and presented to administrators.

Mr. Roark stated that the Student Government Association met on Sept. 5. They discussed updating the SGA Constitution. He also reported that a student senator was impeached at the meeting for not being an active student senator. Mr. Roark commented that the SGA wants to hold the senators to high standards. This year student senators have all signed contracts indicating their willingness to participate.

Mr. Roark stated that the students look forward to working with the Senate/Assembly committees and with administrators. The SGA is also creating internal committees to concentrate on specific issues.

**Benefits Update, Dr. Betsy Rodriguez:**
Dr. Rodriguez, UM System Vice President for Human Resources, provided an update on the changes in health benefits. She stressed the importance of everyone making a choice regarding their medical plan this year. The open enrollment period is Oct. 20-31, 2014. This year there is also a wellness incentive up to $450 that rewards healthy behaviors. Dr. Rodriguez explained that there will not be any changes to dental, vision or life insurance plans. She encouraged the Assembly to share the important information with their colleagues.

There being no other business, the University Assembly meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. to take a photograph of both the Assembly and Senate.
Faculty Senate Meeting

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 3:55 by Senate Chair, Dr. Keith Stine.

Dr. Stine did not have any additional comments for the Chair’s Report.

Chancellor George did not have any additional information to report.

Committee on Committees Report, Dr. Alice Hall:
Dr. Hall presented the following nominations from the Committee on Committees:

Budget and Planning Committee:
Social Sciences representative: Sel Dibooglu (replacing Megan Schacht)

Research – Fall Panel:
Humanities representative: Drucilla Wall (replacing Birgit Noll)

University Libraries Committee:
Nursing representative Julia Campbell (replacing Margaret Berry)

Promotion of Non-Tenure Track Faculty Committee:
At-large representative Dyan Harper (replacing Paulette Isaac-Savage)

The members of the Faculty Senate approved all of the nominations.

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 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Keefer
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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