

**Minutes of the University Assembly/Faculty Senate Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
February 16, 2010 - 3 p.m.
126 JCPenney**

The meeting of the University Assembly/Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by the Chair, Dr. Matthew Keefer.

Chair Keefer asked for approval of the minutes from the meeting on January 19, 2010. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Matthew Keefer):

Dr. Keefer began his report by providing an update on the academic dishonesty issue. The UM System lawyers were present at the IFC meeting on January 26 to discuss the issue. They appeared to be open to the suggestion that academic standards could be determined at the unit level. The lawyers recommended that academic dishonesty cases could be processed through two different avenues – the unit academic standards and the campus committee standards. The legal office is working on the specifics of this issue. Dr. Keefer will inform the Faculty Senate when the legal staff completes their work on this policy.

Dr. Keefer reported that he has received comments and concerns from faculty members about the Office of Research Administration. There are questions regarding research grant funding and concerns about how money is being spent in the Office of Research Administration. After discussions with Chancellor George and Provost Cope, it was agreed that an independent financial evaluation will be done for the Office of Research Administration. After the independent financial report is completed, it will be given to the Faculty Senate Chair and the Chair of the Budget and Planning Committee. Dr. Keefer will report on the findings.

Dr. Keefer reminded the attendees of the upcoming budget meetings. Five Budget and Planning Committee meetings are scheduled for the next few weeks. They will address the budgetary cutbacks and review recommendations from the Program Audit Committee. The Faculty Senate will be briefed on the outcome of those meetings. Chancellor George will report the final results of the budget at the April 27th Faculty Senate/University Assembly meeting.

Dr. Keefer reminded everyone that the election ballots for the senate vacancies have been sent out electronically. Also, the committee preference polls will be sent out by e-mail. He encouraged everyone to respond to these messages.

Chair Keefer commented that everyone should have received the UM System's benefit survey that was sent to all faculty and staff by e-mail. Dr. Keefer explained that this survey gives employees the opportunity to inform UM System of their benefit needs and encouraged all to

complete the survey. Dr. Mark Pope pointed out that the survey included a question about domestic partnership benefits. Dr. Keefer reminded the attendees of the University Assembly's resolution that was passed unanimously at the November meeting regarding domestic partnership benefits. Dr. Zuleyma Tang-Martinez commented that the resolution was just recently approved by the Chancellor's Cultural Diversity Initiative.

Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Thomas George):

Chancellor George commented on his recent e-mail message to the faculty and staff that explained the budget challenges that we face and the process that is in place to deal with the cutbacks. He plans to discuss the final recommendations with the University Assembly/Faculty Senate at the meeting on April 27.

On a brighter note, Chancellor George mentioned that UMSL has a new mascot. A naming contest will be held to come up with a clever name for the new mascot.

UMSL Day will be held on March 6, 2010. Chancellor George encouraged the faculty to take UMSL Day seriously and asked them to support this event. UMSL Day is an important part of student recruitment for the university.

Report of the Staff Association (Mr. Ken Voss):

Mr. Voss reported that the Staff Association's annual holiday bazaar was held in December. The bazaar raised \$1,300 for the John Perry Scholarship. On January 21, many staff members turned out for Pack the Stands Night which was very well attended and showed great campus support for the basketball team. Recently, staff members participated in a "Safety Walk" which brought together staff, students, faculty and administrators who toured the campus to identify ways to make the campus safer. In support of the Relay for Life event on April 23, the Staff Association will put together a team. The Staff Association's annual trivia night will be held on Feb. 27. Please consider attending to support the John Perry Scholarship Fund. Planning is underway for Focus on the Future that will be held during Spring Break. Dr. Keefer asked Mr. Voss how the staff is handling the news of budget cuts. Mr. Voss replied that the staff is very concerned. Mr. Voss said notifying the staff of upcoming budget and planning meetings and keeping them informed has been helpful. He commented that knowledge and good communication is important in tough times.

Report of the Student Government Association (Mr. Greg Meyer, SGA VP):

Mr. Greg Meyer announced that the SGA has been sponsoring "Pizza with Professors". These events have been well attended and it gives the students an opportunity to get to know their faculty better. The next "Pizza with Professors" is scheduled with the College of Fine Arts and Communication on Feb. 23 at 2:30 in MSC Century Room C.

The SGA and the College of Arts and Sciences are co-sponsoring an event at the basketball game on Feb. 18th. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend and enjoy food while supporting the basketball teams.

Student government elections will take place from April 19-23. Elections will be held for president, vice president, comptroller and member-at-large positions. Their inauguration is scheduled for May 5.

The SGA's Big Event will be held on May 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event allows the Student Government Association a chance to give back to the community. They will be working at the Missouri Baptist Children's Home making renovations and spending time with the children. The SGA will also hold a drive for clothing, infant items, toys and non-perishable food to help the Children's Home.

Chair Keefer asked if there was any other business. Hearing none, the University Assembly meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Faculty Senate Meeting

Chair Keefer called the Faculty Senate meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Dr. Keefer began the meeting by asking for a motion to amend the agenda to include a report from the Academic Advisory Committee. The motion was made, seconded and passed. The updated agenda was approved.

Chair Keefer did not have any additional comments for the Chair's Report.

Dr. George did not have additional information for the Chancellor's report.

Committee Reports:

Academic Advisory Committee (Dr. Tim Farmer):

The Academic Advisory Committee recommended a revision to the grade appeals process. Dr. Farmer explained the proposed revision regarding capricious grading. Dr. Farmer clarified that the most significant change of the revision is adding the college level review with authority given to the dean to change the grade if the college level review committee recommends that it be done.

Many faculty members strongly opposed this revision. Discussion ensued about the specifics of capricious grading, particularly item "b" of the proposal which defines capricious grading as "the student's work was graded with more demanding standards than were applied to equivalent students in the course." Some attendees felt that this item should be removed from the proposal.

Other attendees suggested that adding an “outside person” to a committee other than the department faculty would help the committee reach a reasonable conclusion when resolving issues on capricious grading.

After much discussion, a motion was made to refer the proposal back to the committee. The motion was seconded and passed with none opposed. The proposed revision will return to the Academic Advisory Committee so that these issues can be addressed.

Curriculum and Instruction (Mr. Michael Allison):

The following program change proposals were approved:

- BA in Anthropology degree
- BA in Biology degree
- BS in Biology degree (1)
- BS in Biology degree (2)
- BS in Criminology and Criminal Justice degree
- BS in Secondary Education with an Emphasis in Physics degree
- BFA in Studio Art with an Emphasis in Art Education degree
- 2+3 (BA and MA) in History degree
- MS in Gerontology degree and Graduate Certificate in Gerontology
- Residency requirement for the College of Arts and Sciences
- Residency requirement for the College of Fine Arts and Communication

Chair Keefer asked if there were any other business items. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Zuleyma Tang-Martinez
Assembly/Senate Secretary

(Minutes written by Loyola Harvey, Faculty Senate Office)