

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
University of Missouri-St. Louis  
Faculty Senate  
October 24, 2017  
202 JCPenney**

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Senate Chair, Dr. Pamela Stuerke. Dr. Stuerke asked for approval of the Senate minutes from the meeting on Sept. 12, 2017. The minutes were approved as written.

**Report of the Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Stuerke:**

- Dr. Stuerke reminded the senators to please remember to take the information discussed at the Senate meetings and share it with their departments.
- Dr. Stuerke reported that the Steering Committee has met with the chairs of each of the Senate Ad-Hoc committees. The committees are all making progress. As their work is finalized, their recommendations will be presented to the Senate.
- Dr. Stuerke announced that, earlier today, an email was distributed about the Open and Affordable Educational Resources Initiative. The initiative is being guided by a system-wide task force working in collaboration with campus committees. In the coming weeks, UM System will be launching a grant program to enable faculty to incorporate more affordable resources in courses. Faculty will continue to have academic freedom in choosing materials. There is no mandate to switch to more affordable course materials.
- Nominations are being accepted for the UM System President's Awards now. Dr. Stuerke encouraged the senators to submit nominations for their colleagues, especially if they have recently prepared nominations for campus awards. The deadline for submitting nominations is Dec. 22.
- Dr. Stuerke announced that UM System is conducting a program titled "Creating an Inclusive, Socially Just Campus" with the Social Justice Training Institute. The event will be held at MIZZOU on Nov. 10. The deadline for submitting an application is Oct. 27 for this one-day training event.
- Dr. Stuerke reported that nominations are being accepted for the Last Lecture Series. She explained that the Last Lecture Series gives students the opportunity to nominate professors who have made extraordinary contributions to UMSL through classroom teaching and service to the university. After all nominations have been submitted, a committee will choose one faculty member to deliver a keynote address during the Mirth Week celebration on April 24, 2018. Students can submit nominations until December 8.
- Reminders:
  - Benefits enrollment (Oct. 16 – 27)
  - Discrimination Prevention & Title IX Training – deadline Oct. 31
  - IT Security Awareness Training – deadline Oct. 31
  - For calendar: Chili cook-off will be held on Feb. 22. The Senate is a co-sponsor.

### **Report of the Chancellor, Provost Kristin Sobolik:**

Since Chancellor George was out of the country, Provost Sobolik presented the Chancellor's report. She reported the following:

- Provost Sobolik announced that there are three deans' searches in progress:
  - Dean of the College of Education (chaired by Dean Charles Hoffman)
  - Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (chaired by Vice Provost Chris Spilling)
  - Dean of Honors College (chaired by Dean Susan Dean-Baar)

Interviews are expected to be held for the Education Dean in November. It is expected that the interviews for the A&S Dean candidates will be held in December. Since the Honors College Dean position has just been announced, those candidates are expected to be interviewed in January or February. Internal candidates are welcome.

- UMSL NOW (Night, Online, Weekend). Provost Sobolik explained that this new initiative will provide better service for UMSL's adult population. Ms. Kathleen Burns will serve as director. The senators inquired about incentives for teaching on-line courses.
- Academic Program Review. Provost Sobolik explained that an academic program review has begun as part of a four-campus initiative designed to ascertain our programmatic areas of growth, strength, and excellence. Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies Chris Spilling is chair of the review committee, which is composed of members representing major academic units and University Assembly/Senate committees. The review will take place from the fall 2017 semester through the early spring 2018 semester. It will include quantitative and qualitative analyses, as well as numerous conversations with and input from the entire campus community. Committee recommendations are due to Provost Sobolik on March 15.
- Strategic Plan Update. Provost Sobolik stated that a website has been created for the Strategic Plan. There are five compacts that will provide unifying principles to inform and guide each campus in developing its own strategic plan. The draft of the plan is due to UM System by December 1. UM System President Mun Choi hopes to present the final plan to the Board of Curators at the April meeting.
- UMSL Alumni. Provost Sobolik explained that she recently attended an event at CORTEX with the UMSL Alumni Association and local legislators. She gave kudos for the successful event and was impressed by the level of engagement of UMSL's alums. She commented that there are now 98,000 UMSL alums and we are continuing to reach out to connect with them through the call center in Woods Hall.
- UMSL Accelerate. Provost Sobolik encouraged everyone to attend Demo Day for the UMSL Accelerate new entrepreneur program which will be held on Oct. 26 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Provost Sobolik answered questions from the Senate and addressed their concerns.

**HR Benefits Update, Mr. Jim Hertel & Ms. Mallorie Nelson:**

The Senate was reminded that the annual open enrollment period is Oct. 16 – 27 for faculty and staff. Ms. Nelson highlighted the changes in the medical insurance such as an increase in the emergency room copay which will increase to \$250. The vision insurance vendor has changed to EyeMed instead of VSP. EyeMed allows for a larger provider network for vision insurance. Additional benefit information can be found at [umurl.us/benefits](http://umurl.us/benefits).

**Budget and Planning Committee Report, Dr. Greg Geisler:**

As Chair of the Budget and Planning Committee, Dr. Geisler reported that the committee met on Oct. 6, 2017. At the October meeting, the committee was updated on the status of the Strategic Plan, the Academic Program Review, and the Higher Learning Commission's visit on Nov. 5-6, 2018. The committee also received a presentation from Mr. Rick Baniak, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. Dr. Geisler reported that Mr. Baniak summarized the FY 2017 budget and gave an overview of the budget plan for FY 2018. He reported that UMSL enters FY 2018 in better financial shape than at this time one year ago due to the successful implementation of a sustainable budget plan adopted last fiscal year. UMSL will balance its FY 2018 budget through a combination of enrollment and scholarship initiatives, efficiency measures, and nominal tuition/fee increases.

**Committee on Committees Report, Dr. Linda Marks:**

Dr. Marks presented the following nominations from the Committee on Committees:

- Faculty Teaching and Service Awards Committee:  
Stephanie Van Stee was nominated to replace Suellynn Duffey.
- Promotion of Non-Tenure Track Faculty Committee:  
Denise Mussman was nominated to replace Birgit Noll as one of the at-large representatives.

**The members of the Faculty Senate approved both of the above nominations.**

**Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) Report, Dr. Susan Brownell:**

Dr. Brownell reported that IFC met by telepresence on October 19 and discussed the following:

- Arranging a meeting between IFC members and the Board of Curators at the Dec 7-8 meeting on the UMSL campus.
- There is a possibility that some of the CRR's concerning sexual, racial, and other forms of discrimination relative to Title IX may be changed due to concerns of the Trump administration, but no main policies.
- IFC has formed an NTT Faculty committee to review all policies in the CRR related to non-tenure track faculty. Dr. Pamela Stuerke is the UMSL representative from IFC. The other two UMSL members are Dr. Larry Irons and Dr. Janet Wilking.
- A committee is being formed to examine the procedures that are used system-wide to evaluate teaching. The committee will provide recommendations to IFC.
- The UM Research Board funding is being reorganized. The half million dollars spent on fine arts, social sciences, and humanities is going forward, but the \$1.5 million spent on the STEM disciplines is under examination. President Choi emphasized that overall the

system will spend more money on research than in the past. He was informed that communication about these changes had been poor and had left some faculty believing that research funding is being cut.

- The audit of the system administration is continuing to look for cost-cutting that can be gained through consolidation of system functions in IT; HR; Diversity; and research. IFC particularly feels that it needs to monitor cost cutting in the area of research to ensure faculty involvement from all campuses in any decisions.
- October 27 is the deadline for intercampus course sharing proposals. The proposals need a full vetting and sign-off from the Center for Teaching and Learning. An IFC member has been appointed to look into obstacles to course sharing.
- Faculty should be involved in the Strategic Plan and should bring any system-level concerns to the IFC representatives – Pamela Stuerke, Jon McGinnis, and Susan Brownell.

**Curriculum and Instruction Report, Mr. Michael Allison:**

Mr. Allison presented the proposed academic calendar for 2019-2020. **The Faculty Senate approved the 2019-2020 calendar.** Mr. Allison presented the following program proposals:

- B.S. in Education: Special Education (Drop)
- Ph.D. in Education (Change)
- Admissions criteria for R.N. to B.S. in Nursing (Change)

**The Senate approved all of the above curriculum proposals.**

**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 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Gibb

Senate/Assembly Secretary

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