

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Faculty Senate
January 24, 2012 - 3 p.m.
202 J C Penney**

The meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by the Chair, Dr. Michael Murray.

Chair Murray asked for approval of the minutes from the meeting on December 13, 2011. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson, Dr. Michael Murray:

Dr. Murray reported that UM System Vice President Betsy Rodriguez's visit to UMSL originally scheduled for Jan. 19 had been rescheduled for Jan. 31 at 3:30 p.m. The goal is briefing faculty on the proposed changes to benefits, specifically 403(b). He encouraged attendance.

Dr. Murray discussed some of the questions that were raised as part of the internal report from the recent Faculty Senate Five-Year Review. These fall into categories of:

- Senate Service -- in terms of Committees and overall access.
Dr. Murray reported that the reviewers found that there may be a lack of awareness on the part of some of our faculty members about what the members of the Senate, including IFC, are doing as well as the levels of representation in terms of the leadership positions.
- Senate Offices and methods -- especially terms and elections.
Dr. Murray said that the review also reflected a lack of understanding on some leadership issues including things like terms of office and voting. He explained that at UMSL the Senate Chair's term limitation is by tradition. The Senate may want to think about the possibility of extending the term for the next Chair. UMKC has had a longer-serving chair and that seems to have worked well for them. He commented that by comparison to the other campuses, UMSL does not have an elaborate infrastructure for senate officers. Missouri S&T has a progression of senate officers, including someone filling a formal Parliamentarian slot and also a Vice-Chair, who then becomes the Chair. Dr. Murray suggested that this is something that should perhaps be considered for the future.

The IFC election process was another item noted in the review. Currently, the voting process for IFC representatives is handled at the Spring Faculty Meeting. Meeting attendees cast their votes at that meeting. Dr. Murray suggested that it could be handled electronically through the Senate in the future, with ballots being sent to all faculty members, rather than just handled by those who attend the Spring Faculty Meeting. He said that he would note that these points had been shared with the Senate and in the formal response and asked the senators to let the Senate Steering Committee know how they felt about these specific issues.

- Questions about how we might better communicate what we do.
Dr. Murray explained that in an effort to increase communication, we are focusing on encouraging the senators to report to colleagues regularly on senate activity and also communicating to the leadership of units what we are doing and how we are doing it.
- Questions regarding the means of providing greater rewards and incentives to serve
Dr. Murray reported that the review acknowledged that it may be worthwhile to review the current incentives used to credit Senate and committee service. The review team felt that it was important to insure people are properly rewarded for their service.

In conclusion, Dr. Murray invited the faculty senators to introduce themselves, provide the name of the department they are representing, and announce if they currently serve on any committees.

Report of the Chancellor, Dr. Thomas George:

Chancellor George reported that several budget proposals have emerged this month in Jefferson City that would impact the campus budget – bringing with them challenges and opportunities:

- Senator Tim Green (D-St. Louis) has introduced SB 655. The bill would create a Higher Education Capital Fund for the General Assembly to appropriate matching funds to public state universities or colleges for capital projects. In order to receive the matching funds, a university or college must raise 50 percent of the cost of the capital project from private donations or grants. Institutions may not use operating budget funds, tuition, fees, or bond revenues to raise their portion of the capital project's cost.
- Also dealing with capital funding is HJR 57 by Representative Chris Kelly (D-Columbia). The resolution proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the General Assembly to issue bonds to fund higher education improvements, construction, landscaping, and land purchases.
- Governor Jay Nixon has proposed a 12.5% reduction in state appropriations to higher education – the lowest level of support since 1998. Chancellor George explained that that's about a \$6.8 million cut to UMSL. A tuition increase is being considered to cover the state cut alone, not to mention inflationary increases or any salary increases. Chancellor George is discussing the budget situation with UM System colleagues and will be meeting with the campus Budget and Planning Committee.

Chancellor George commented that President-designate Tim Wolfe will be on campus Thursday (Jan. 26) to meet with selected groups.

Chancellor George announced some changes with the members of the Board of Curators. Curator Judith Haggard has resigned for personal reasons. The Governor has withdrawn the curator nominations for Craig Van Matre and Pamela Henrickson. Currently, there are only six out of nine curators serving on the board.

Campus Safety Protocols & Update (Sgt. Dan Contarini):

Sgt. Contarini, Campus Safety Coordinator, briefed the senate on updates to campus safety. Working in conjunction with the UMSL Campus Safety and Violence Prevention Committee, Sgt. Contarini is working on the following initiatives:

- Branding of a campus safety logo to ensure safety messages are easily identified
- Creating a new safety website
- Producing new building signage for evacuation routes and emergency rally points
- Enhancing the Triton Watch program by beginning a “building watch program”
- Working with Staff Association building representatives and other building monitors and providing them with extra safety training
- Conducting future town hall type meetings to address safety issues
- Distributing periodic safety e-mails to campus to provide updated information
- Coordinating with University Communications as they work on an “UMSL App” that will provide safety information

Sgt. Contarini also informed the senate that MACTAC training has recently occurred. The training was conducted for all campus and county officers to educate them on how to respond to an active shooter. In the event that would happen on campus, they have been trained to handle that situation.

On Feb. 10, Jamie Linsin from Counseling Services will conduct “Green Dot Training” which is safety training for bystanders. UMSL will also host Clery Act Training on March 29 and 30. It is expected that many college and university representatives from across the country will attend this upcoming training.

Sgt. Contarini asked the senators for feedback on what type of professional development or safety training would be helpful for them. They discussed possible scenarios of classroom incidents and Sgt. Contarini provided some recommendations. Sgt. Contarini told the Faculty Senate that he is available to answer any of their questions regarding safety issues and provided his contact information.

IFC Report (written by Dr. Susan Feigenbaum):

The IFC met via telepresence on December 14, 2011. Nikki Krawitz gave an update on the legislative proposal for performance funding. She indicated that there would be a performance component that measures affordability, as well as measures for student progress, degree attainment, and quality of learning.

The IFC passed a resolution, unanimously, that supports the current tenure-track policy for University Librarians at UMKC.

A significant amount of time was spent discussing proposals to modify the current 403(b) plan that is offered by the university. All IFC members stressed to Vice President Betsy Rodriguez the importance of retaining TIAA-CREF options to minimize dislocation costs. We also noted that Vanguard Funds remain an attractive option due to their low fee structure. Susan noted that we owe a debt of gratitude to Joe Martinich who brought our concerns to the UM System Benefits Committee and was able to suggest significant changes that were very worthwhile.

We met with Interim President Steve Owens who informed us that a President of the UM System would be announced soon and selection of a Chancellor for Missouri S&T would then follow.

We were also informed that the Board of Curators had forwarded the issue of extending employee benefits to domestic partners to a subcommittee for further study.

In the final minutes of the December IFC tele-presence meeting, Vice President Steve Graham raised the issue about the quality and sufficiency of the Faculty Accomplishment System and indicated that alternatives or modifications would be discussed in the upcoming year.

Benefits Update (Dr. Joe Martinich):

The Benefits Committee has been meeting and has been able to make headway. The new pension plan starts October 1. New employees will be given a selection of investment options. Administration of the current tax-deferred investment plans (e.g., 403(b)) will be combined with the new defined contribution pension plan. The number of investment options will be substantially reduced, but the Pension and Staff Benefits Committee is working with UM to provide good investment options for each investment class. One improvement is that TIAA-CREF will remain available to 403(b) participants. New employees will not have that option except through a brokerage window. At the committee's suggestion, a few low-fee funds from Vanguard are likely to be included as options.

Committee report:

Curriculum and Instruction Report (Mr. Michael Allison):

Mr. Allison presented the following program proposals:

- Addition of the B.A. in Philosophy
- Change in the minor in Philosophy

Both of the above program proposals were approved.

New Business:

Rocky Keel, Chair of the University Assembly IT Committee, announced that Larry Frederick, Chief Information Officer, asked if faculty could let ITS know about their research needs. If faculty members have specific technology needs for their research, they should contact the IT sub-committee chair, Yakima Young-Shields, and provide her with that information. She will forward those requests to ITS.

There was also some discussion about the need to impress our students with the maintenance of decorum in the use of cell phones and hand-held devices. The Provost commented on the opportunity to set standards and communicate these concerns to students via the class syllabus.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Willman
Assembly/Senate Secretary

(Minutes written by Loyola Harvey, Faculty Senate Office)