MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING OF THE
UM-ST. LOUIS
UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY AND FACULTY SENATE
April 25, 2006
3 p.m. 222 J. C. Penney

The University Assembly portion of the meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Assembly/Senate Chairperson Paul S. Speck, Sr.

Minutes from the February 21, 2006, joint meeting were approved as submitted.

Chair Speck reordered the agenda, beginning the meeting with a …

Report from the Alumni Association

The Vice President of our Alumni Association, Mr. Hubert Hoosman, presented a brief report on the Association's activities. Mr. Hoosman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Vantage Credit Union, announced that in mid-summer faculty and staff members will be extended membership in the organization. Chair Speck noted the Alumni Association's influential lobbying role in legislative affairs and its place at the forefront of the fundraising effort that is about to begin.

Dr. Donna Taliaferro introduced Dr. Juliann Sebastian, who will become Dean of the College of Nursing on August 1. Chair Speck welcomed the new dean and invited her to attend meetings of the Assembly, Senate, and Budget and Planning Committee.

Report from the Chairperson -- Dr. Paul S. Speck, Sr.

Dr. Speck offered some thoughts regarding shared governance based on his two-year tenure as Assembly/Senate Chairperson.

He reported that Steering Committee meetings are more productive and more conducive to candor between the Chancellor and the membership when they are restricted to the six regular members, rather than those that include all committee chairs (the so-called "Extended Steering Committee"). He said he plans to recommend to Chair-Elect Farmer that meetings of the Extended Steering Committee be discontinued.

Chair Speck remarked on the astonishing accomplishments of the Budget and Planning Committee over the past four years. Now, numerical data is brought forward to the Committee in a timely manner. In the past, the Committee had been focusing solely on the budget, but currently its scope has been broadened to include planning.

Most committees, the Chair observed, are either advisory committees or process committees. He cited the Academic Advisory Committee; the Committee on Physical Facilities, Space, and General Services; and the Committee on Recruitment, Admissions, Retention, and Student Financial Aid as examples of advisory committees. He credited them with providing a dialog among faculty, staff, students, and the Administration.

Ad hoc committees are created as necessary, and traditionally half the membership is selected by the University Assembly and/or the Faculty Senate. These committees have been working hard, and their recommendations are being taken seriously by the Administration. Examples of accomplishments by ad hoc committees include the dissolution of the Evening College and new ways of handling student advising.

Other committees were identified by the Chair as process committees: Appointments, Tenure, and Promotion; Curriculum and Instruction; and the Committee on Faculty Teaching and Service Awards. We need to make sure that the time of these committee members is not wasted, the Chair said. Under Dr. Fred

Willman's leadership, the C&I Committee now handles virtually all of its proposals electronically. And, there are more nominations -- and more electronic submissions -- of teaching and service award dossiers than ever before.

Now, the Steering Committee and the Budget and Planning Committee meet regularly with the Chancellor on strategic issues. Three faculty members sit on the Economic Development Committee, and faculty are represented on the Master Planning Committee. The Chair observed that there doesn't seem to be a central locus for these kinds of things and expressed hope that the new Chair and the Administration can discuss a long-term institutional strategy for such areas.

Chair Speck noted the interest in our retirement plan evinced by the Board of Curators. Three campus representatives are included as members of the University-wide Benefits Committee: Drs. Susan Feigenbaum and Thomas Eyssell and Ms. Gloria Leonard. The Chair recommended that these representatives routinely report to the Budget and Planning Committee, and he specifically asked Dr. Eyssell to speak with Dr. Jones to get on the agenda.

Chair Speck said he would defer discussion of the Administrator Evaluation Committee until later in the meeting.

Regarding advisory committees in general, the Chair observed that although there is considerable buy-in to shared governance overall, there remains reluctance by some units to share. He recommended that the Chancellor and Provost remind the people working under them that they have a responsibility in this regard.

Chair Speck noted that the Provost doesn't have the staff necessary to deal with assessment on the campus at large. He expressed hope that the position in Academic Affairs that previously was contemplated would be reinstated.

In closing, the Chair remarked that the Academic Advisory Committee must mature into a stronger committee than ever before. He suggested that under the Provost model, the Committee should play a role similar to the Council of Deans.

Report from the Chancellor -- Chancellor Thomas George

Another $2 million has been added to our operating budget as the result of an equity gap adjustment recommended by a joint conference committee of the Missouri House and Senate. The Chancellor credited Senator Chuck Gross and System President Elson Floyd for their unwavering support. The adjustment is not going down well with the other UM campuses, particularly UMC.

Chancellor George reported that the raise pool will go up from 2 percent to 3 percent.

The latest version of MOHELA caps tuition in accordance with the Consumer Price Index. Senator Charlie Shields, from St. Joseph, introduced a substitute bill that was ultimately passed unanimously by the Education Committee. It removed provision for private schools. The Chancellor reported that, to date, we are still in the state's budget for $18 million, with no requirement to match. We will, he said, probably renovate Benton and postpone plans for Stadler at this time.

The Board of Curators will meet in St. Louis on May 3-4 in all three Century Rooms. The agenda will be sent out in advance. Maria Curtis will make a presentation on behalf of the students.

Under new plans, the Chancellor said, the Normandy Hospital area will become an athletics building and parking. Mark Twain will likely house a Wellness Center. By the start of 2008, we should have a baseball field, Chancellor George promised.

A student member of the Assembly, Mr. Damien Johnson, inquired how a person could get on the Master Planning Committee. The Chancellor suggested that he speak with the Student Government Association President.

The following two Resolutions were considered, amended, and adopted by the Assembly.

Resolution #1

RESOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY AND THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

Whereas: The University of Missouri-St. Louis is the University of Missouri in St. Louis and must deliver instruction, research, and service consistent with the high standards of the UM System as a whole;

Whereas: Funding provided by the UM System to the University of Missouri-St. Louis has often fallen short of that required to meet these goals;

Whereas: The President of the University of Missouri has publicly recognized this "gap," publicly committed the UM System to address it, and already taken action to partly close it;

Whereas: The President of the University desires that additional adjustments be made with "new funds" so that other UM campuses and programs are not harmed by his effort to rectify this shortfall;

Whereas: The Missouri Senate recommends that $2 million of extra funding be provided to UM for the purpose of making an additional payment toward the promised amount;

It Is Resolved That: The University Assembly and Faculty Senate of the University of Missouri-St. Louis applaud and endorse the action of the Missouri Senate and strongly recommend that the Senate, the Legislature, and Governor support this initiative.

RESOLUTION #2

RESOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY AND THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

Whereas: The State of Missouri has strong interest in the education of its citizens, strong interest in maintaining a highly skilled and competitive workforce, strong interest in economic development, and strong interest in research that supports Missouri industries and institutions;

Whereas: Missouri's public institutions of higher education are specifically designed to meet these responsibilities and currently serve most students attending institutions of higher education in Missouri;

Whereas: Missouri's public institutions of higher education have historically and continually demonstrated their ability to meet statewide need for high quality, post-secondary education;

Whereas: Missouri's public institutions of higher education provide a wide choice of accredited programs in a variety of formats at a number of locations at an affordable price;

Whereas: Missouri's public institutions of higher education provide critical research and services that support the economic and public policy objectives of the State of Missouri;

Whereas: Missouri's public institutions of higher education create public good as well as private good for individual students;

Whereas: House Bill 1865 fails to acknowledge that public higher education is a public good designed to generate and support the creation of other public goods;

Whereas: HB 1865 fails to provide reasonable support for graduate programs, research and services;

Whereas: HB 1865 fails to allow for actual annual supply-side cost increases;

Whereas: HB 1865 fails to link state support with the true cost of undergraduate education in many fields;

Whereas: HB 1865 fails to assure that the comprehensive goals of public higher education are met;

Whereas: HB 1865 would divert public funds to private institutions;

Whereas: HB 1865 puts at risk the cumulative and future value of public higher education assets throughout the state;

It Is Resolved That: The University Assembly and Faculty Senate of the University of Missouri-St. Louis strongly oppose HB1865 and encourage the Missouri Senate, the Governor's Office, and all Missouri citizens to oppose it.

Report from the Student Government Association

The Student Government Association President was absent due to an injury and did not provide a substitute speaker in his stead; therefore, there was no report from the SGA.

Report from the Administrator Evaluation Committee -- Dr. Helene Sherman

(see report attached to agenda)

In an attempt to clarify the University Assembly's position on the charge and scope of the Administrator Evaluation Committee, the Chair asked a series of questions. The Assembly voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Committee working independently but in a spirit of cooperation with the Administration, voted that faculty and staff responses should be blended together into one evaluation, and voted that all full-time faculty should be invited to participate in the survey.

It was decided to create a small ad hoc committee that will seek input from the Chancellor over the summer, draft new bylaws, and present them to the Assembly in October. Chair Speck offered to be on the Committee and to appoint the remainder of its membership. His offer was gratefully accepted.

Report from the Committee on Physical Facilities, Space, and General Services -- Dr. Thomas Eyssell

Dr. Eyssell reviewed the procedures for requesting space on the campus (see attached).

Report from the Budget and Planning Committee -- (The attached report was distributed in the absence of Dr. E. Terrence Jones.) The Chair noted that next fall, the Committee will be reviewing progress on the Action Plan and receiving updates from the Performing Arts Center and the Development Office. The Committee may need an additional meeting this year if the $18 million is approved.

Report from the Student Publications Committee -- Ms. Cadence Rippeto

Ms. Rippeto reported that Mr. Adam Wiseman has been appointed Editor of the Current.

The University Assembly portion of the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m. There was a three-minute break before the Faculty Senate portion of the meeting convened at 4:28 p.m.

Minutes from the March 21, 2006, meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as submitted.

Report from the Chairperson -- Dr. Paul Speck

The Chair reminded senators of the undergraduate research symposium and encouraged them to bring their colleagues and students.

Breakfast will be hosted by the Faculty Senate for the Board of Curators on May 5. Chair Speck said he is currently identifying people to be highlighted. Senators were asked to contact Ms. Joan M. Arban, the Chair's Executive Assistant, if they wish to suggest someone or otherwise help with the breakfast program.

The proposal regarding non-tenure-track faculty has been forwarded to five committees for feedback. In the coming week, the document will be placed on the Senate's website so that faculty can review it and respond with their comments.

Report from the Chancellor -- Chancellor Thomas George

At a forthcoming meeting, President Floyd will discuss administrator reductions. The President has decided to place administrators into certain categories, and we will comply.

Secretary Peck noted that early notification usually leads to better attendance at functions such as the undergraduate research symposium.

Resolutions I and II from the University Assembly portion of the meeting were approved without dissent.

Report from the Provost -- Provost Glen Cope

Provost Cope reported that program reviews for this year were for centers and things that "don't exactly fit into academic programs." They include the Center for Emerging Technologies, Center for Teaching and Learning, Child Advocacy Center, Multicultural Relations, Sue Shear Institute, and Center for Eye Care. Next year, we will return to reviewing academic programs, and all results will be posted on the web.

Report from the Intercampus Faculty Council -- Dr. Richard Wright

(see attached)

Report from the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction -- Dr. Fred Willman

All proposals recommended by the Committee were approved, including a new program proposal for a B.S. in Media Studies. The Senate's attention was drawn to numerous course actions which the Committee had effected. Dr. Willman thanked the Committee's membership for their hard work and thanked Ms. Marcia Blackburn, Senate Office Assistant, for following through on all business. Dr. Willman, the Committee, and Ms. Blackburn were roundly applauded by the Senate for their efforts.

Other Business

Dr. Lawrence Barton offered the attached Resolution honoring Chair Speck for his diligent service over the past two years. The Resolution was adopted with enthusiasm and applause.

Completing the business at hand, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Peck, Secretary
University Assembly and Faculty Senate

(minutes written by Ms. Joan M. Arban,
Executive Assistant to the Assembly/Senate Chairperson)