Minutes of the  
University of Missouri-St. Louis  
University Assembly Special Meeting  
August 11, 2020

Report of the Senate Chair (Dr. Alice Hall):  
Senate Chair Alice Hall called the University Assembly Special Zoom meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Hall explained that the Faculty Senate/University Assembly usually has its first meeting in September as it begins the academic year. However, this meeting was scheduled to prepare for UMSL’s Fall re-opening and to inform the Assembly about plans for dealing with COVID-19 as well as to update the Assembly on other university matters.

Dr. Hall welcomed the new members of the University Assembly. She also congratulated the faculty senators who were recently promoted.

Dr. Hall reported that over the summer the UM System investigated and voted on a proposal to merge the roles of the UM System President and the Mizzou Chancellor. She explained that there were some reservations about this proposal. She stated that the Senate Steering Committee and IFC representatives drafted a letter to the Curators thanking the Curators for seeking input and explained their reservations regarding the proposal. The letter also included some suggestions for things the Curators might do to mitigate any potential negative consequences.

Dr. Hall said that the Board of Curators voted in favor of the position merger on July 28, 2020. President Mun Choi, the current UM System President, has been serving as the Interim Chancellor of Mizzou. He will continue to serve in that newly-merged role. Dr. Hall explained that the Board of Curators also established a Council of Chancellors, consisting of the four chancellors and chaired by the President and Chancellor of Mizzou. The Council will meet monthly and address challenges and opportunities, including system-wide strategic thinking, collaborative academic initiatives, integrated shared services and more.

Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Kristin Sobolik):  
Chancellor Sobolik reported that the Council of Chancellors has been meeting and having productive discussions. She said this new council has given the chancellors the opportunity to share the perspectives of each of the UM System campuses more clearly.

Chancellor Sobolik said she wanted to share the following good news with the Assembly:

- In a *Times Higher Education* ranking, UMSL has been ranked #52 out of 100 in the reduced inequalities category. UMSL scored especially high for its role in combating inequality, in line with the university’s core values, particularly inclusion, access, success and engagement.

- UMSL’s fundraising has increased by 21% in the past year. UMSL recently realized its largest gift of four million dollars for student success from alum George Paz.
Chancellor Sobolik has been notified that UMSL will be receiving a Department of Education Trio Grant for student success services. This is an annual grant of $253,000 for a five-year period ($1.265M over five years). She congratulated Natissia Small and Beth Eckelkamp for their excellent work in obtaining this grant.

In other UMSL news, Chancellor Sobolik reported that the ITE building has now been sold. An RFP has been distributed for Normandie Hall and there are good prospects for selling that building. Also, the sale of the golf course should be finalized in December.

Chancellor Sobolik acknowledged the good work of the Unified Command as they prepared the campus for re-opening. She reported the following updates for the Fall re-opening:

- Classes start on Aug. 24 with blended (combining in-person meetings with online content and activities) and fully online courses (40% in-person blended; 60% online)
- Students and employees will be expected to self-monitor their health on a daily basis for COVID symptoms.
  - An app called Campus Screen will be introduced to help students and employees track for daily symptoms.
  - Students, employees or visitors may be asked to show their daily app pass status to enter buildings, classrooms or other university activities.
  - All members of our community will be required to report positive test results or close contact with someone who has tested positive.
  - Campus health officer will work with local public health agencies on the communications and contact tracing process.
- Face coverings are required in all indoor spaces and outdoor spaces where social distancing is not possible.
  - All employees will be issued two UMSL branded cloth masks.
  - All instructional faculty will be issued a face shield.
  - Face coverings will be provided to all students. Residential students will receive one branded cloth mask and other cloth/disposable masks will be available to all students.
  - Disposable masks will be made available to visitors.
- Student housing is being offered with reduced occupancy numbers.
  - Any residential student who tests positive will be encouraged to isolate at home if it is safe and possible to do so.
  - Space has been identified for student quarantine/isolation purposes if necessary.
- Facility rentals for all in-person external events or activities are prohibited. All in-person internal events, meetings or activities are limited to a 30-person cap – if space allows. Encourage virtual meetings when possible – even if all participants are on campus.
- The “Start Safe. Stay Safe.” website contains information for students, faculty and visitors – including expectations to keep UMSL open and safe at [http://www.umsl.edu/staysafe/](http://www.umsl.edu/staysafe/)

Chancellor Sobolik addressed the questions and concerns of the University Assembly.
Budget Update (Ms. Tanika Busch):
Ms. Tanika Busch, Interim Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration/CFO, provided an update on the FY20 budget, the state appropriations, and the budget reduction plan for FY21. She reported that $3.9M is still needed for the FY21 budget. She explained that targeted reductions could be realized through the following:

- Athletics Program
- Extra Compensation Taskforce
- Academic Program Prioritization
- Facilities Capital Spend Review
- Justification Process for Positions (Faculty & Staff)
- COVID Relief Fund Process one-time savings

When asked if this year’s pay cuts could be permanent, Ms. Busch said that this year’s pay cuts will not be permanent. Ms. Busch addressed the questions of the Assembly members.

Academic Affairs Update (Dr. Marie Mora):
Dr. Marie Mora, Provost, provided the following information from Academic Affairs:

- Reorganization of Academic Affairs. Dr. Mora reported that the position of Associate Provost for Academic Affairs has been eliminated. She is still working through how to reallocate the responsibilities, including through Faculty Fellows. Two positions have been merged into one: the Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Associate Provost for Student Success (APSS) were combined into a single administrative position – Vice Provost for Student Success & Academic Innovation (VP SSAI), hence effectively eliminating the position of APSS. The Assistant Provost for Access & Academic Support now directly reports to the Provost and the Graduate School now directly reports to the Provost. Dr. Mora also reported that Community Engagement now directly reports to the Vice Chancellor for Research and Community & Economic Development. The Center for Teaching and Learning and UMSL Global now directly report to the VP SSAI.

- Plans for the Graduate School. Dr. Mora reported that nearly all of the tuition remission “slots” will be reallocated to the academic colleges; FY21 will be the transition year. How these slots will be awarded will also be examined. The graduate admissions staff will be moved into admissions. The position of the Dean of the Graduate School will be replaced by the position of Senior Director of the Graduate School who will continue to oversee many of the remaining responsibilities.

- Plans for the Academic Program Prioritization. Continuing the process launched in 2017-18, Dr. Mora reported that the Fall 2020 Academic Program Prioritization (APP) Committee will analyze academic programs previously recommended for further review and make recommendations to the Provost that may result in additional resource investments into programs aligned with UMSL’s strategic areas of growth, strength, and excellence as well as the potential elimination, suspension, or alteration of other programs. The Fall 2020 APP process is part of a longer-term institutional strategy for excellence in planning, operations, and stewardship aligned with UMSL’s strategic plan. Academic programs not under review in Fall 2020 will be scheduled for review in the next APP cycle.
Faculty Extra Compensation Taskforce. Complementing the strategies to achieve excellence in planning, operations, and stewardship outlined in UMSL’s strategic plan, Dr. Mora explained that the Faculty Extra Compensation Taskforce will make data-driven recommendations to the Provost to increase the transparency, consistency, and equity of extra compensation for faculty across the institution. The Taskforce will examine extra compensation related to:

- Instructional activities, including teaching and supervising student research outside of institutionally approved workload, summer teaching, etc.
- Department Chair and other part-time administrative compensation
- Other recurring activities consistently supported by the university

Dr. Mora addressed questions and comments from the University Assembly members.

Dr. Hall announced that the University Assembly/Faculty Senate will meet by Zoom on Sept. 22 at 3:00. She thanked all of the 127 attendees for participating in this special Assembly meeting and adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Gibb
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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