

**From:** Samples, Robert  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 7:27 AM  
**To:** UMSL Faculty; UMSL Staff  
**Subject:** UMSL Faculty\_Forum Invitation

**This message was sent on behalf of Dr. D'Souza Valerian**

Dear Colleagues,

A number of years ago, when our campus was going through a crisis, (fairly minor one compared to present), Tim McBride and a group of us decided it was important to have avenues for our faculty to voice and share our opinions freely. We also created a number of institutions (e.g. IT committee) where campus community would have an opportunity to have input into its decision making process. We also created an online-discussion group called Faculty\_Forum. Soon after its creation, Tim McBride moved to Washington University and Bill Long took over administration of the Faculty\_Forum. During years of illusionary prosperity that followed, the Faculty\_Forum remained less active than desired. I have recently taken over administration of this forum and would like to revive it so that we all can voice our opinions and facilitate decision making processes.

Our campus once again seems to be going through a crisis and it is important that faculty discuss aspects of problems that are troubling us. For example, there is an effort to unionize faculty on campus. We have heard bits and pieces from various players in this effort. I think it is crucial that our campus community come together and talk about problems that face us and pros and cons of solutions that are offered to us. I strongly urge you to become a part of this conversation and encourage your colleagues to join this discussion.

Faculty\_Forum is open all faculty, staff and administrators who are interested in issues that deal with faculty. If you want to be a part of this cyber community, please send an e-mail either to me ([vally@umsl.edu](mailto:vally@umsl.edu)) or to [Faculty\\_forum@lists.umsl.edu](mailto:Faculty_forum@lists.umsl.edu) and express your desire to be part of the discussion group and I will add you on to the list.

Looking forward to a vibrant discussion group that deals with all issues that face us.

Vally