

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
November 14, 2023 – 3:00 p.m.
MSC Century Room A-B & Zoom option.**

Senate Chair Sanjiv Bhatia called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Dr. Bhatia welcomed the attendees in the MSC Century Room and those who were attending by Zoom. He asked for approval of the minutes from the Assembly meeting on September 26, 2023. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Sanjiv Bhatia):

- Dr. Bhatia reported that the Board of Curators are scheduled to meet on UMSL campus on Thursday, November 16, and will visit the science complex on campus.

Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Kristin Sobolik):

- Chancellor Sobolik reminded the Assembly to nominate people for the UMSL Heroes award.
- Chancellor Sobolik recognized the department of Music for becoming a Steinway institution, one of roughly 200 all Steinway schools in the world. She shared that there had been a concert in the Lee Theatre celebrating this achievement on Thursday, November 9, including five Steinway grand pianos, and congratulated Chair Joanna Mendoza for this accomplishment.
- Chancellor Sobolik reported that UMSL was awarded the HEED award for the seventh time, recognizing UMSL's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. She recognized Vice Chancellor Tanisha Stevens for shepherding this institutional award. She noted that UMSL is the only institution in Missouri to receive this award this year.
- Chancellor Sobolik also announced that UMSL received the "Best for Vets" designation for the ninth year in a row.
- Chancellor Sobolik shared that the Marketing and Communication division received top awards from the Council for Advancement and Education (CASE) Midwest District for the UMSL Magazine and for the Discover More Admitted Student Kit. She recognized Justin Roberts and his team, and Reggie Hill and his team for these awards.
- Chancellor Sobolik announced that the women's volleyball team is second in the nation, with a record of 28-0, and clinched the GLAC finals. She also announced that Charlotte Richards, UMSL alum, has been nominated for the NCAA woman of the year award.
- Chancellor Sobolik provided further information about the Board of Curators meeting, which includes a new curator orientation and a tour of campus including the science area, the College of Nursing simulation labs, the Child Advocacy Studies center, and the newly completed ARPA project in the College of Optometry.
- As part of the Chancellor's Report, Tanika Busch, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, and CFO, discussed the electrical grid and the recent issues with the electrical grid.

She explained what had happened to cause the power outage, and the reasons for the delays in power restoration.

- She also explained the plans for longer-term corrections; an engineering firm has begun looking at the electrical grid for the entire campus. At this point, the costs associated with the plan are not known.
- She also shared a commitment to continue a high level of communication.
- She thanked the community for their kindness, and for all the hard work necessary to complete the repairs in unfavorable weather.

Report of the Staff Association (Ms. Britne Bacca-Haupt):

Ms. Bacca-Haupt reported on the following topics:

- An All-Staff meeting was held in hybrid form on November 9.
- The Staff Association has partnered with HR during the Pulse survey and information sessions for the upcoming changes to PTO that are coming in January.
- The Staff Association will hold a staff retreat for the Staff Council. The 26 members of the Council will meet, and intend to look over the Staff Association Bylaws, and take a chance to get to know each other better.
- The Staff Association has a newly formed Events Committee and is planning to host a Staff Appreciation Day in the Spring.

Report of the Student Government Association (Mr. Alexander Orywall):

Mr. Orywall reported that the Student Government Association (SGA) is receiving the following suggestions from students:

- The UMSL's Scholarship website, which was outdated, has been fixed. Every scholarship on the website now either has an application due date or says that the application period has ended. He recognized Mitchell Hess for taking care of that on behalf of the students.
- Students are working on a resource page for students, and a proposal with the Rec Center for sports clubs on campus.
- Mr. Orywall expressed concern about car thefts and break-ins on South Campus in the parking garage.

UMSL Retiree Association (Mimi Duncan and Melissa Hattman, retirees):

Representing the UMSL Retiree Association, Ms. Hattman, President, and Ms. Duncan, Membership Chair, introduced the Assembly to the newly created UMSL Retiree Association. They shared the following information at the Retiree Association.

- It is intended to help retirees stay connected to university friends and colleagues.
- It is open to retirees and their spouses.
- It provides programs of interest to retirees.
- Its leaders meet regularly with UM-System and UMSL administrators to regarding retirees' interests, needs, and concerns.
- It works with other UM System retiree associations.
- It is affiliated with the Alumni Association as an affinity group and will have an office in the Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center when it opens.

They provided reasons to join the UMSL Retirees' Association, including activities and other benefits for membership. They asked that the members of the Assembly encourage any other retirees to join the Retiree Association.

Dr. Bhatia called for any other business. Chancellor Sobolik asked us to follow up on the statement by Mr. Orywall about car thefts and break-ins. She checked with Chief Freet about incidents in the past month, and reminded the Assembly that UMSL keeps track of this as part of the Clery requirements. According to Chief Freet, there has been one car theft and a couple of cars damaged in the past month. She asked that Mr. Orywall encourage these events to be reported. A member of the Assembly also pointed out that UMSL is the safest campus in St. Louis.

There being no other business, Dr. Bhatia adjourned the University Assembly meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Stuerke
Senate/Assembly Secretary