

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University Assembly
November 17, 2020 – 3 p.m.
Zoom meeting**

Senate Chair Alice Hall called the Zoom meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Hall asked for approval of the minutes from the Assembly meeting on Sept. 22, 2020. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Alice Hall):

- Dr. Hall reported that a system-level task force has been formed to improve accessibility to digital resources for those with disabilities. For questions or input, the UMSL contacts are Dr. April Regester and Mr. Michael Porterfield.
- The Faculty Teaching & Service Awards Committee is working on streamlining the nomination process for faculty awards. More information will be coming soon, but please consider nominating your colleagues in the spring semester.
- Dr. Hall announced that the Faculty Senate Office works with the Office of Student Life each year to organize the Homecoming Chili Feed. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the event will be held virtually. More details will be coming to the campus community regarding this event and other Homecoming activities.

Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Kristin Sobolik):

- Chancellor Sobolik reported that to slow the spread of COVID-19, UMSL will transition to remote learning formats beginning Monday, Nov. 30, for the last three weeks of instruction and final exams following Thanksgiving break.
- Chancellor Sobolik congratulated the College of Nursing on their successful virtual groundbreaking event on Phase 1 of the renovation and expansion of the Nursing Learning Resource and Simulation Lab that was held on Nov. 13. The new facility will increase the number of simulation rooms from five to eleven, allowing the college to grow the number of trained nurses by twenty percent annually.
- Chancellor Sobolik gave kudos to the Community Innovation and Action Center, the Public Policy Administration Program, and the Political Science Department for their work in relaunching the St. Louis Coro Fellows Program. The program develops emerging leaders to work and lead across government, business and nonprofit sectors and will be housed in the Community Innovation and Action Center.
- Chancellor Sobolik reported that she recently met with about 100 alums of the Edward Jones Alumni group to talk about UMSL and alumni engagement. She said that UMSL's alumni donor base is a huge asset because 75% of UMSL's alumni live and work in the St. Louis area.
- Chancellor Sobolik stated that UM System President Choi recently sent an e-mail announcement about the Council of Chancellors' report and the Administrative

Efficiencies report. She asked that the campus community review both of those reports and provide feedback. She explained that the reports will be discussed at the Nov. 19 Board of Curators virtual meeting. She encouraged the University Assembly to attend the virtual meeting to hear the discussions.

- Chancellor Sobolik explained that over 60 members of the campus community have been working on the Strategic Enrollment Plan. UMSL has contracted with RNL to find ways to grow enrollment for the future. Chancellor Sobolik was recently informed that UMSL will be receiving \$5M as catalyst funding to get the plan started. She said that the draft plan will be sent to the campus community for input. She thanked everyone who worked on the plan and commented that every one of us is an important component in recruitment and retention of students.
- Chancellor Sobolik reported that she has recently been talking to the leaders of health care centers around the region. They are very concerned about the levels of COVID cases in the area. She said that UMSL has been carefully maintaining policies and procedures to keep the campus safe. She asked that each of us look at individual actions to do everything we can to keep our community and ourselves safe. She reported that this week there are 29 new student cases of COVID for a total of 43 active cases. She reported that not all of those students are on campus, but the students reported that they have it. There are eight new reports of staff who have COVID for a total of 13 active cases. They are quarantining as needed. Chancellor Sobolik thanked Dr. Chris Sullivan and the Health and Counseling staff for doing a fantastic job of tracking and reporting these cases. She also thanked the Unified Command for tracking updates from the county, state, and CDC in order to make good recommendations to the leadership.

Chancellor Sobolik addressed the questions from the University Assembly.

Report of the Staff Association (Dr. Cassidy Thompson):

Dr. Thompson reported that Staff Association Chair Tiffany IZARD McGEE recently welcomed a healthy baby boy and is out on maternity leave until Feb. 1. Dr. Thompson reported that over 325 staff members attended the All Staff meeting on Oct. 21. Due to such good attendance, a second All Staff meeting has been scheduled for Dec. 10. Dr. Thompson reported that many administrators have already agreed to attend the December meeting to provide updates to the staff. Dr. Thompson stated that the Staff Association is aware that staff morale is an issue during these COVID times when many are working virtually. They are working on a list of staff appreciation ideas and coming up with possible ways that managers and supervisors can boost the morale of the staff. The Staff Association is partnering with Human Resources on this initiative. The Staff Association recently welcomed six new members to Staff Council. The Staff Association is working on planning some staff events for the Spring.

Report of the Student Government Association (SGA) (Mr. Joseph Methner):

Mr. Methner reported that the SGA is working on updating their constitution. He explained that the draft constitution document was presented to the members of the student assembly to get their input. The SGA is hoping to vote on the final document in December with a student-wide vote held next semester. He stated that a few of the student senators have recently resigned. A special election will be held next semester to fill those student senator slots. The SGA is working

on a way to conduct the annual Campus Safe Walk next semester. The SGA is also looking at ways for student senators to pass resolutions in the student assembly. Mr. Methner stated that one of the things the SGA has really focused on this semester is student engagement. The SGA is making sure students feel welcomed and represented. He reported that some of the student organizations are struggling to get students to join in virtually. Senate Chair Alice Hall thanked Mr. Methner for his report and commended the students for their efforts in helping students get involved with the presidential election and encouraging them to get out and vote.

Athletics Update (Ms. Lori Flanagan & Dr. Lynn Staley):

Ms. Lori Flanagan, Athletics Director, and Dr. Lynn Staley, Faculty Athletics Representative, provided an Athletics update. Ms. Flanagan stated that the Athletics Department is working with about 240 student athletes to provide safe environments for the students and coaches during the months of COVID-19. They are working with local, state, and University guidelines, as well as conference and NCAA requirements or recommendations.

Ms. Flanagan reported the following athletic accomplishments for 2019-2020:

- Overall winning percentage of the program is .629
- Overall grade point average of the 13 sports was 3.4 (highest ever)
- 144 students achieved Academic All-GLVC Accolades with a cumulative grade point of 3.3 or above.
- Success of the men's basketball team – earned a bid to the DII NCAA National Championship.
- Overall record was 27-6, Coach Sundvold was Coach of the Year.
- Success of the women's volleyball team – earned a bid to the DII NCAA National Championship.
- Overall record was 29-5, Coach Young was Coach of the Year.
- Addition of men's and women's cross country and track and field.

She reported that due to UMSL's budget constraints, the Athletics Department's budget will be reduced using the following measures:

- Reduce the number of athletic contests for 2020-2021
- Minimize the number of overnight stays by teams, increased travel to return to campus
- 10 % of each sport budget reduced
- Reduction of scholarships changes the demographics of where to recruit from
- Reduce the ability to recruit international students or out of state students

Dr. Staley thanked the faculty for working with the student athletes to accommodate their team's schedules. She also thanked Dr. Matt Taylor for his work as the previous Faculty Athletics Representative. Ms. Flanagan and Dr. Staley addressed the questions of the University Assembly. Chancellor Sobolik encouraged the attendees to watch the games online. Dr. Hall thanked them for the report.

Bylaws & Rules Committee Report (Dr. Sanjiv Bhatia):

Dr. Bhatia explained the following merger proposal for the membership and mission of the Academic Advisory Committee and the Assessment of Educational Outcomes Committee:

CURRENT	PROPOSED	RATIONALE
<p><u>Academic Advisory Committee Membership</u></p> <p>Consists of the Provost and one eligible faculty member elected by the Senate from each of the parallel units.</p> <p><u>Assessment of Educational Outcomes Committee Membership:</u></p> <p>Consists of the following voting members: one eligible faculty member from each of the parallel units and two students. Non-voting members of the Committee shall consist of the Provost and the administrative appointee in charge of assessment.</p>	<p><u>Academic Advisory and Assessment Committee Membership:</u></p> <p>The Academic Advisory and Assessment Committee shall consist of the following voting members: one eligible faculty member from each of the parallel units and two students. Non-voting members of this committee shall consist of the Provost and any administrative appointee assigned to this committee. The committee may create a faculty-only subcommittee when the Provost needs advice on faculty-specific academic issues and when discussing issues that are confidential in nature.</p>	<p>Improve efficiency and allow for more comprehensive, strategic initiatives and advising in the area of academic affairs and assessment.</p> <p>By combining the committees, we are seeking to reduce the burden on faculty in terms of staffing the committees and allow for more efficient and strategic policy-making. Rather than having two committees working on related issues independently, we propose one committee that can take a more comprehensive view.</p>

CURRENT	PROPOSED	RATIONALE
<p><u>Academic Advisory Committee Mission:</u></p> <p>The Committee shall have the general responsibility of making recommendations to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs on academic issues affecting the University, including recommending general policies and procedures governing the evaluation of academic instruction and advisement.</p> <p><u>Assessment of Educational Outcomes Committee Mission:</u></p> <p>The Committee shall have the general responsibility of making recommendations concerning policies in the area of assessment of educational outcomes and related matters. The Committee shall also regularly review and advise on policies and procedures in this area and recommend changes when appropriate.</p>	<p><u>Academic Advisory and Assessment Committee Mission:</u></p> <p>The Committee shall have the general responsibility for making recommendations to the Provost on academic issues affecting the University, including general policies and procedures governing the evaluation of academic instruction and advising, and assessment of educational outcomes and other related academic and educational assessment matters. The Committee shall also regularly review and advise on policies and procedures in this area and recommend changes when appropriate.</p>	<p>Improve efficiency and allow for more comprehensive, strategic initiatives and advising in the area of academic affairs and assessment.</p> <p>By combining the committees, we are seeking to reduce the burden on faculty in terms of staffing the committees and allow for more efficient and strategic policy-making. Rather than having two committees working on related issues independently, we propose one committee that can take a more comprehensive view.</p>

The University Assembly voted unanimously in favor of the above proposal to merge the two committees. The proposal will move forward to the next step in the approval process. The final step will be approval by the Board of Curators.

Dr. Bhatia presented the following proposed changes to the Senate Operating Rules:

- Clarification of new department names in the College of Arts and Sciences:
 - Computer Science
 - Mathematics & Statistics
- Updating Senate/Assembly membership: dropping the Dean of the Graduate School (since the position of Dean of Graduate School no longer exists)
- Adding a new paragraph to include the membership of the University Assembly. (This paragraph currently exists in CRR 300.040. By inserting this paragraph into the Senate Operating Rules, the Senate and Assembly will be able to approve any changes in membership, rather than sending it to the Board of Curators for approval.)
- Titles changed (Throughout the document, titles are being updated to allow for flexibility when position titles change.)
- Change in the make-up of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.

Senator Stephanie Van Stee suggested that the titles should be changed to executive leaders instead of executive leadership in the document. The document will be updated to indicate the suggested change.

The University Assembly voted in favor of all of the changes to the Senate Operating Rules.

There being no other business, Dr. Hall adjourned the University Assembly meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Gibb
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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