

FACULTY SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

Report of the Chairperson
January 23, 2007

1. The Board of Curators will meet on our campus Thursday and Friday this week. Most of the meetings are open, public meetings and I encourage you to attend as your schedules allow. There will be some issues of great importance to faculty at these meetings, which I believe the Chancellor will talk about in his remarks today. The Governor has also appointed new curators to the board, so the meetings should be interesting as revelations about their understanding of and attitudes toward university issues are revealed.
2. I would like to remind committee chairs that if they have not submitted 5-year summaries of their committees' activities for the Senate/Assembly administrative review, please do so by the end of this month so that the Steering Committee can use them to determine on what areas of faculty governance our self-study should focus.
3. Since I was the only IFC rep from St. Louis at the December meeting, I would like to summarize what transpired at that meeting. Dr. Wright will give the report on the January meeting.
 - a. VP Gardner spoke about the growing emphasis on economic development as one of the roles of the university. It is shaping up to form a "4-legged stool" where we used to think in terms of the "3-legged stool" of teaching, research, and service. Combining research and teaching to achieve greater dissemination of knowledge and innovation seems to be the philosophy that is being used. This is a continuation of the themes he presented to the Senate when he was here last semester.
 - b. VP Knorr provided a year-end update of governmental affairs. We have 28 new members of the legislatures and 12 of them took advantage of the educational briefings offered by UM as candidates. Because of term limits the university team is being very pro-active to get legislatures educated about our issues – and to serve as resources for legislatures on bills related to higher education. No solid budget numbers yet, though a united front of university presidents from around the state have asked for 12.6% increase – knowing we won't get that much. The state does have more money than in the recent past, so there is optimism that funding for higher education should be pretty good.
 - c. The consensual amorous relationship policy has been put into effect pretty much as we saw it.
 - d. IFC is working on trying to draft consistency in development leave policies across campuses. We are continuing to wrestle with how to address the mandates of the Spellings Report – and progress is slow. There is discussion of decoupling tuition for the 4 campuses to allow market flexibility. This would take Board action and I haven't seen any formal resolutions to that effect yet. A21 compliance continues to be discussed in terms of educating faculty and making them aware of the importance of compliance. VP Krawitz stated that an assistant controller would help with this process.