

FACULTY SENATE and UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY  
of the University of Missouri-St. Louis

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON  
February 20, 2007

First, let me say “thank you” to the chairs of committees who submitted summary reports for the 5-year administrative review of the Senate and Assembly.

The Board of Curators met on our campus January 25 & 26. I appreciate the committee chair people who helped host the Faculty Senate Breakfast for the Board. Dr. Richard Rosenfeld, the recipient of the 2006 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Research provided a talk on his work with crime statistics, which was well received by attendees. Each time I attend a meeting of the Board of Curators or talk to a curator at some event, I realize how vitally important it is for faculty and students to educate our governing board. While the board members are leaders in their own fields, they generally don’t understand the university the way that we do – but, in most cases they are eager to learn about us. When we have the opportunity to showcase the great things that our faculty and students do with the help of our staff colleagues, I hope we will take advantage of those opportunities.

On February 13 I participated in a conference call with the senate chairs from the other three UM campus, the chair of IFC, and Don Walsworth, Chair of the UM Board of Curators. The call was primarily to find out the Board’s reaction to HB389 and what was being done with regard to use of MOHELA funds for UM campus construction projects. At one point during the legislative process the projects at UMC, UMKC, as well as CORTEX and CET were removed from the bill. Our colleagues in Kansas City and Columbia were obviously very concerned about that. All campuses have concern about elements of the bill that transfer some of the power of the UM Board of Curators to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the restrictions on research that have been attached to this legislation. Curator Walsworth explained that he and the rest of the board want to support faculty and to that end, he had been talking to legislators to work things out. He said that he believed the restrictive measures would eventually become moot and that is why the board was accepting the restrictions now in order to get the money. He expects that the bill will be challenged in court soon after being passed by the legislature.

In response to events going on in Jefferson City, I asked Faculty Senators for a “sense of the Senate” vote by email. I received 25 responses, all affirmative, endorsing the following resolution:

**"Be it resolved by the Faculty Senate that any changes to Missouri higher education must preserve the historic constitutional status of the University of Missouri and lawful academic freedom."**

The faculty governance bodies on the Columbia, Rolla, and Kansas City campuses also made this resolution.

Curator Walsworth said that the search for a new system president was well underway; advertisements have been placed and many good applications have been received from both academics and business people. He is convinced that the board will hire a great president.

On February 16, the Faculty Senate co-sponsored a colloquium on Preparing for Tenure & Promotion with the Center for Teaching and Learning. Dr. Richard Wright and Dr. Fred Willman represented our APT committee as presenters, giving advice to junior faculty who are thinking about the tenure and promotion process. Dr. Debbie Balser and Dr. Shirley Porterfield were panelists giving the “newly promoted” perspective. Thank you for providing this service to our campus colleagues.