

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University Assembly
September 26, 2023 – 3:00 p.m.
MSC Century Room A & Zoom option**

Senate Chair Sanjiv Bhatia called the meeting to order at 3:00 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 April 25, 2023. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Sanjiv Bhatia):

- Dr. Bhatia welcomed the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Andrew Balkansky, and the Interim dean of the College of Nursing, Dr. Judith Lewis.
- Dr. Bhatia stated that the Faculty Senate has a change to one of the at-large senators for the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Maureen Quigley from the Art and Design Department has resigned from the Senate. She is being replaced by Ms. Keiko Ueda from the Language and Cultural Studies Department. Ms. Ueda received the next highest number of votes at the most recent at-large election.
- Dr. Bhatia also welcomed the returning adjunct faculty representative, Mr. Gary Flotron from the College of Business Administration. He thanked him for his willingness to serve again as the adjunct representative.
- Dr. Bhatia reported that all the Senate committees have elected their chairs and the committees are up and running as we begin a new academic year. He displayed a list of all the newly elected committee chairs.

Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Kristin Sobolik):

- Chancellor Sobolik announced that UMSL had its first New Student Convocation on August 18, 2023. This event is a new Triton tradition designed to formally welcome the newest class of students and their families to the UMSL campus.
- Chancellor Sobolik reported that exemplary faculty and staff were honored with the Chancellor's Awards for Excellence at the State of the University Address held on August 25, 2023.
- Chancellor Sobolik was delighted to report about some of the activities surrounding UMSL's 60th anniversary as follows:
 - Red and Gold Day was held on September 15 where a large crowd of faculty, staff, and students gathered to celebrate the beginning of UMSL on September 15, 1963.
 - Throughout the year, UMSL will spotlight 60 alumni who apply one or more of UMSL's core values in the world and help make it a better place.
 - UMSL is holding a competition for original music to accompany newly penned lyrics for a new alma mater. The winning composer will receive a \$1,000 honorarium.
 - UMSL has set a goal of 60,000 hours of volunteer service. The campus community is encouraged to log in their hours after each act of service at <https://www.umsl.edu/60/umsl-serves.html>.

- More information about UMSL's 60th anniversary, can be found at the following webpage: <https://www.umsl.edu/60/index.html>
- Chancellor Sobolik encouraged faculty and staff to continue to nominate colleagues for the UMSL Hero Awards.
- Chancellor Sobolik reported on ways that UMSL is investing in staff and faculty such as implementing merit raises and equity adjustments and launching the emerging leaders program.
- This Fall, UMSL welcomed over 1,050 new students from the St. Louis region and Missouri, over 80 new students from over 20 states, and more than 125 new international students from over 15 countries. The following enrollment report was given:
 - Undergraduate First-time college (+7.7%)
 - Undergraduate Transfer (+1.0%)
 - Undergraduate Continuing (-4.2%)
 - Graduate Continuing (+1%)
 - New Graduate (-13.8%)
- Chancellor Sobolik reported that research awards are up over 171% since FY 17. She praised the faculty and staff for their great research work.

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

Ms. Bacca-Haupt reported on the following topics:

- As of July 1, a new Staff Council is in place. She reported that about half of the Council members are returning for a two-year term.
- An All-Staff meeting was held by Zoom on September 21. The Staff received a campus safety update, information on UMSL Serves and volunteering, and an update on the campus construction projects. Three more All-Staff meetings are scheduled throughout the year.
- All are welcome to participate as the staff hosts a "Socktober event" for October. Socks donations are requested. The socks will be donated to local groups in the community.
- The Staff Association is partnering with Missouri Baptist Hospital to have a mammogram van on campus on Nov. 29 from 8:45 am – 2:00 pm by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling 314-996-5170.
- The Staff Association is discussing the creation of staff interest groups. The discussions are still in the planning stage while the Staff Council decides on the best way those groups can be formed.
- One of the main staff concerns right now is the changes coming to the PTO (Paid Time Off) benefit program. The changes will take effect on January 1, 2024. The Staff Association will work with HR to find times for staff to get more information or to ask questions.

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:

- Students would like more in-person classes, especially in math and computer science programs.
- Students report that UMSL's Scholarship website is outdated and needs to be updated. They requested updating the site to make it easier to manage.

- Students request that a resource page be created for incoming freshmen or transfer students to help navigate the campus.

Mr. Orywall reported that the SGA's biggest goal this year is to make SGA more active than previous years. This year SGA has three executive positions filled and 18 senators. The SGA is planning a return of the Campus Safe Walk event. More information will be coming.

Campus Safety Update (Campus Police Chief Dan Freet):

Chief Freet thanked the campus community for their support in keeping everyone safe. He reported that the biggest crime on campus is the theft of unattended cell phones and laptops. He reminded everyone to please be aware of where your cell phones and laptops are located and never leave them unattended even for a few minutes. As of the end of August, Chief Freet reported that the top five calls for service from Campus Police are for:

- 1.) Calls for sick cases
- 2.) Calls for found property. The Campus Police appreciate that the campus community is great about turning in found items so that they can help others.
- 3.) Theft
- 4.) Auto accidents
- 5.) Checking welfare. The Campus Police may receive a call from a concerned family member or friend of a student and ask if they can check to make sure they are okay.

Chief Freet stated that Campus Police appreciates the incoming calls regarding possible suspicious autos or suspicious activity/persons. He explained that most of the calls turn out to be no problem, but the Campus Police would like to be aware of anything suspicious to keep the campus community safe.

Chief Freet encouraged everyone to download the free Rave Guardian Safety App. The Safety App offers speed dial functionality to reach campus police (or 911 when off campus), a safety timer that allows friends and family to act as a virtual safety escort, and a call directory of university support services. More app information can be found at <https://www.umsu.edu/safety/police/safety/rave.html> Chancellor Sobolik praised the Campus Police Department. The University Assembly applauded their efforts in keeping the campus safe.

Athletics Report (Dr. Joe Pickard):

The Assembly received an Athletics update from Faculty Athletics Representative Dr. Joe Pickard. If you have any questions or concerns about student athletes, please contact Dr. Pickard or the Assistant Athletics Director for Academics, Alex Miner. Everyone is encouraged to attend upcoming games and matches. Some of the Athletics statistics reported were:

- Department GPA 3.45
- 183 student-athletes achieved a 3.25 or higher
- 174 earned Academic All-GLVC Honors
- 1 GLVC Paragon Award Winner
- UMSU hosted our first ever National Championship last Spring

Budget Update (Ms. Tanika Busch):

Ms. Busch, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration/CFO, provided the following details regarding the budget:

- FY23 Year End Summary; -3.3M (unaudited)
- FY24 Budget
 - Tuition & Fees; Rate Increase 6% & 2.7% Enrollment
 - State Appropriation Increase; 4.6M
 - Growth in Grant & Contract Revenue
 - Compensation – 4% S&W Increases
- FY24 Enrollment Projection – as the summer census data is analyzed, more details will be shared with the Budget and Planning Committee.

Campus Construction Update (Mr. Blake Sutter):

Mr. Blake Sutter, Assistant Director of Planning Design and Construction, reported that Facilities Management currently has about 60 active projects. This briefing will update the Assembly on the ARPA projects as follows:

- College of Optometry to Patient Care Center – project complete
- Richter Family Welcome & Alumni Center – demo in progress; construction starts in Q4 2023
- TJ and Mercantile Library Renovation – construction to start Fall 2023
- SSB Modernization & Expansion – SSB elevator construction to start this week; SSB Tower demo to start in Spring 2024
- JCP North Renovation – schematic design in progress
- Music & Fine Arts to Arts Administration Building – construction to start in Spring 2024
- Central Utility Plant – North Campus – study phase 70% complete
- Sassin Building and Post Office – demolition complete

Mr. Sutter stated that the Geospatial Design Lab project should be finished in October. The College of Nursing Simulation Lab Phase 3 is expected to be done by the end of the year. More information about the campus construction projects can be found at this link: <https://www.umsl.edu/transform//index.html> Chancellor Sobolik commended the Facilities Team for their good work. The University Assembly applauded their efforts.

There being no other business, Dr. Bhatia asked the University Assembly to walk to the rotunda for a quick photo. He adjourned the University Assembly meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Stuerke
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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