

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
University of Missouri-St. Louis  
Faculty Senate  
January 18, 2011 - 3 p.m.  
126 JCPenney**

The meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by the Chair, Dr. Michael Murray.

Chair Murray asked for approval of the minutes from the meeting on December 7, 2010. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.

**Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Michael Murray):**

Dr. Murray reported the December Senate Breakfast with the Board of Curators went very well. Following the December Board of Curators meeting, senate chairs from all four campuses and others met with Steve Graham (UM System Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs) to discuss proposed changes to the faculty grievance procedures. To help explain how the changes could affect UMSL, Dr. Murray has asked Dr. Judith Walker de Felix to speak to the senate today.

Dr. Murray reminded everyone that senate elections will begin in late January. Faculty in specific departments whose representatives have terms expiring will receive an e-mail ballot and are encouraged to vote. Also, the Faculty Senate has been scheduled for its Five-Year Review next fall. If anyone has suggestions for names of outside evaluators for the review, please inform Dr. Murray. It was suggested that next year's January senate meeting be scheduled a week later than this year's meeting. By moving the meeting a week later, it will eliminate any complications with it being held the first day of classes.

Dr. Murray presented the IFC report. The IFC met on December 17 in Columbia. Steve Owens, Interim UM System President, joined the meeting. He thanked everyone for the cards that were sent to President Forsee concerning his wife. In other matters, campus representatives were asked to report on the progress of the academic program reviews. Dr. Murray reported that UMSL's reviews had gone smoothly. Other campuses had many more programs that were reviewed in comparison to UMSL. Another topic of discussion at the IFC meeting was the updated academic integrity statement. Dr. Murray shared the statement with the senators and asked them to review it and provide feedback later in the meeting. After their review, Dr. Murray will report UMSL's response back to the members of IFC.

**Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Thomas George):**

Chancellor George shared the following information:

- UMSL is one of only 115 colleges and universities to be selected by the Carnegie Foundation for its 2010 Community Engagement Classification. This award recognizes exceptional collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources.

- University Advancement has received eight awards for its writing, design, media placements and multimedia projects from the Counsel on the Advancement and Support of Education.
- Total enrollment is up to 11,709 which is a slight increase over last year.
- As you know, President Forsee has stepped down. Steve Owens (General Counsel) is interim president. A national search will be held for his replacement.
- In regards to the budget, Chancellor George will attend the Governor's State of the State Address where he will receive more information on anticipated cutbacks. It may not be quite as bad as we expected, but more details will be forthcoming.

#### **Faculty Grievance Procedure Update (Dr. Judith Walker de Felix):**

Dr. Walker de Felix explained the current grievance procedures and how the proposed changes would affect our campus. She stressed the fact that UMSL is fortunate because there are few grievances. UMSL's initial informal approach of discussing concerns has worked well to alleviate potential grievances. As a member of IFC, Dr. Paul Speck provided some historical background on how the proposed changes to the grievance procedures began. He explained that Columbia had experienced much more difficulty with their many grievances and asked that some changes be made to streamline the process into a quicker resolution. Rolla and Kansas City also experienced problems which lead to the proposed changes. After further discussion among the faculty senate, a motion was made and seconded that UMSL would endorse the proposed changes. All were in favor. Dr. Murray will relay that endorsement at a future IFC meeting.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Bylaws and Rules Report (Dr. Tim Farmer):**

Dr. Tim Farmer explained the following proposed operating rules amendment:

*PROPOSED TEXT: (Deleted material is ~~struck through~~. Added material is underlined.)*

##### **ELECTIONS: Faculty Senate:**

*2. Following the election of the department and parallel unit representatives, an election will be held by ~~mail~~ e-mail or paper ballot distributed and tallied by the Senate in each independent College and School for at-large representatives. The number of at-large representatives shall be equal to one-third (1/3) of the total of the individual unit representatives. The number elected in each independent school or college will be determined proportionally by the number of eligible faculty ~~and~~ as determined at the beginning of each fall semester with each specified school or college having a minimum of one at-large representative.*

##### **RATIONALE:**

*The number of at-large representatives had been specified in the by-laws and rules prior to the substantive revision done a few years ago. The specification was apparently lost in the revision, but has been maintained at 1/3 of the number of unit representatives. The proposal restores the specificity and clarifies other imprecise language in the operating rules.*

All were in favor of the proposed amendment.

Dr. Murray revisited the academic integrity topic that he presented earlier in the meeting. He asked if the senators have had enough time to review the academic integrity statement. After additional discussion amongst the senators clarifying the statement, a vote was taken. All were in favor of endorsing the academic integrity statement.

**Other business:**

Dr. Joe Martinich who serves on the Pension Committee (a temporary committee that was formed to advise the Vice President of Human Resources) provided an update on the retirement plan. The Pension Committee has met four times. They have made progress with evaluating some alternatives to the retirement plan while considering the risks and welfare of faculty and staff. The consensus of the committee was that the Board of Curators should not act quickly. Substantial time should be given to the new board members to evaluate the information regarding the changes to the retirement plan. To provide protection for the future, the committee will request that the current Board provide written documentation indicating its intention to fund adequately the pension plan for current employees, if the Board makes any substantial change in the pension program for new employees. The Pension Committee will meet again in February.

Dr. Paul Speck initiated a discussion on the tragedy in Phoenix. He asked if UMSL is prepared to handle situations with troubled students such as the one in Phoenix. Provost Cope explained how UMSL is addressing these issues including the establishment of a new Safety Committee, providing Crisis Intervention Training, and counseling and referral processes. Dr. Zuleyma Tang-Martinez commented that more faculty training is needed to address possible problems with troublesome students.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Willman".

Fred Willman  
Assembly/Senate Secretary

(Minutes written by Loyola Harvey, Faculty Senate Office)