

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Faculty Senate
October 9, 2012 - 3 p.m.
202 JCPenney**

The meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by the Senate Chair, Dr. Chris Spilling. Dr. Spilling asked for approval of the minutes from the meeting on Sept. 11, 2012. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson, Dr. Chris Spilling:

Chair Spilling reported information about the following items:

- **IFC Retreat:** Dr. Spilling announced that he, Steve Moehrle, and Susan Brownell attended the retreat for the Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) at Lake of the Ozarks on Sept. 25-26. UM System President Tim Wolfe talked to the IFC representatives about the concept of shared governance. President Wolfe is interested in learning more about the value of shared governance and may attend a future senate meeting. Dr. Spilling said that Dr. Moehrle will provide a more detailed IFC report later in this meeting.
- **UMSL Events:** Dr. Spilling has represented the faculty at recent UMSL events. He attended the Safe Walk on Sept. 18. The Safe Walk is an event sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA). Students, faculty, staff, and administrators gathered on the campus in the evening, divided into groups, and walked throughout the campus. Each of the groups identified safety concerns or areas that needed safety improvements. The SGA will compile a report and present the results of their findings.

Dr. Spilling also attended the Homecoming Dance and the Founders Dinner. He commented that both events were very well done.

- **Committee Chairs:** Dr. Spilling reported that all senate and assembly committees have now elected their chairs. The committees are meeting and handling various topics and issues.

Report of the Chancellor, Dr. Thomas George:

Chancellor George reported on the following items:

- **Missouri Institute of Mental Health (MIMH):** Chancellor George explained that MIMH celebrated their 50th anniversary last week. He stated that MIMH offers research, evaluation, policy and training expertise to organizations seeking to improve the behavioral health services they provide to patients. MIMH works with several academic units on campus and accounts for nearly \$8 million annually in grant funding.

- Founders Dinner: The annual UMSL Founders Dinner was held on October 2 with 800 people attending the event at the Ritz Carlton. Chancellor George reported that they celebrated the conclusion of the Gateway for Greatness Campaign. The initial \$100 million goal was surpassed by a subsequent \$150 million goal. More than \$154 million was given through gifts by 55,000 donors. Founders Dinner attendees also honored the following six outstanding alumni:
 - Terrence Elmendorf (BSBA 1986, MBA 1995)
Senior Director, International Finance and Contracts for Boeing
 - Daniel Isom (BS 1994, MA 2003, PhD 2008)
Chief of Police, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department
 - Randi L'Hommedieu (BM 1974)
Director & Professor of Music Education, School of Music,
Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant
 - Judith Marth (BSBA 1975)
Director, IT Global Services & Support
Chief Logistics Integration Office for The Boeing Company
 - Steven Sullivan (BSBA 1981, MBA 1994)
Chairman and President of Ameren Energy Resources
 - Jason Jan (BSBA 1999)
Founder and Owner of FroYo Premium Frozen Yogurt
- St. Louis Public Radio and St. Louis Beacon: In trying to develop a partnership, Chancellor George reported that he has signed a letter of intent with the St. Louis Beacon to explore options for strengthening regional news reporting by combining the individual assets of both St. Louis Public Radio and St. Louis Beacon. The expected benefits include increasing each organization's reach and regional news reporting capacity, as well as enhancing the long-term financial sustainability of both organizations. It also enhances the exposure UMSL students will have to emerging digital communications channels.

IFC Report (written by Dr. Steve Moehrle):

Dr. Moehrle briefed the Senate about the topics that were discussed at the IFC retreat held on Sept. 25-26, 2012. The following is his power point presentation:

- Domestic partner benefits update:
 - IFC produced a case favoring domestic partner benefits
 - The campuses unanimously endorsed
 - President Wolfe will bring the matter for a vote of the Curators

➤ Missouri Amendment Two:

- Became effective September 8, 2012
- Applies only to public schools and universities
- Largely a reiteration of the First Amendment
- States that:
 - Students have the right to the free exercise of prayer or other religious expression without interference as long as it is private and voluntary, whether individually or corporately and in a manner that is not disruptive
 - Students may not be coerced to participate in any prayer or religious activity
 - **Students may express their beliefs about religion in written or oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their work**
 - **Students shall not be compelled to perform or participate in academic assignments or educational presentations that violate their religious beliefs**
- Provisions three and four present our biggest challenges
- Students appear to have the right to refuse an assignment on religious grounds
- We faculty should work closely with our administrators should cases arise

Missouri Amendment Two (Legal Considerations):

- It is reasonable to require the religious belief to be sincerely held
- It is reasonable to ask for supporting evidence
- A written statement from a parent or religious leader
- Performing the assignment or engaging in the educational activity must actually constitute a violation of the student's religious beliefs
 - It would not be a violation to simply require a student to master an understanding of a theory, concept, or practice that may contradict the student's religious belief
 - It is not acceptable to ask them to agree with or argue in favor of the theory, concept, or practice
- In the event of a valid religious objection to an assignment, the school should endeavor to accommodate that objection by offering an alternative assignment that approximates the learning objective as closely as possible

Missouri Amendment Two (Practical Considerations):

- One of our colleagues is going to get challenged (even baited) on this
- *As a colleague*, I would implore you to
 - Communicate often with our Administrators
 - The more disdain we feel for the student and the request, the more graciously I hope that we will deal with that student
 - We might be able to cause a positive maturation in the student
 - We will help our University to avoid legal headaches and costs

➤ Trimesters:

- The central administration is discussing whether a trimester calendar is in the best interests of the University
- Early stage discussions
- Rationale
 - Could accelerate time-to-degree
 - Could help to offset declining state appropriations
 - Could help to improve graduation and retention rates
 - Was inspired by President Obama's challenge
- Research findings are mixed
- Stay tuned

➤ University Press:

- A Committee has been set up to advise the President and UM Chancellor on the operation of the UM Press
- Mike Murray and Steve Moehrle are UMSL's representative on that committee
- Feel free to provide input to either of them

➤ Benefits:

- Salaries are wanting
 - We are below peers on salary at all four campuses
 - The Administrators do know it
- Encouraging migration of higher paid employees into the high deductible plan
 - Increased payment into your health savings account
- Wellness push
 - If we *collectively* minimize our risk factors, we will change the frightening trajectory of costs
 - Please take the health screening
 - Know your risk factors

During Dr. Moehrle's presentation, the senators asked questions about how they would be affected by Missouri Amendment Two. Various scenarios were discussed about the appropriate way to handle students if they object to specific subject matter. The consensus was that the faculty should wait and see if the issue arises. If the subject matter is challenged, each case should be handled in a reasonable and respectful manner. All cases should also be reported to administrators for tracking purposes.

Curriculum and Instruction Report (Mr. Michael Allison):

Mr. Allison briefed the senate on the collected rules and regulations for establishing the academic calendar. The academic calendar for 2014-2015 was presented for approval. All were in favor of the 2014-2015 calendar with the 2014 fall semester beginning on August 25.

Mr. Allison also briefed the Senate on a program proposal for the Art Education Emphasis for the B.F.A. in Studio Art. The proposal was approved.

Executive Session:

The Senate met in Executive Session to consider candidates nominated to receive honorary degrees.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Martinich
Assembly/Senate Secretary

(Minutes written by Loyola Harvey, Faculty Senate Office)