

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University Assembly
April 26, 2022 – 3:00 p.m.
MSC Century Rooms & Zoom option**

Senate Chair Jon McGinnis called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Dr. McGinnis 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 Feb. 22, 2022. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Jon McGinnis):

Dr. McGinnis welcomed everyone to the final University Assembly meeting for 2021-2022. He announced that we will be presenting the Golden Ladle to the winner of the best chili from the Homecoming Chili Feed. Dr. McGinnis presented the Golden Ladle to the College of Business Administration for their recipe for Slow Cooker Cream Cheese Chicken Chili. Representatives from the Office of Student Life (Ms. Jessica Mode) and Sodexo (Mr. Bob Marx) were in attendance to present the ladle to the College of Business Administration (Dr. Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle). In addition, Dr. McGinnis was pleased to report that the proceeds from the chili event will be donated to UMSL's Triton Pantry in the amount of \$1,561. Ms. Robin Kimberlin accepted the check on behalf of the Triton Pantry. The Assembly applauded the winners and the donation.

In his Chair Report, Dr. McGinnis reported the following:

- The Budget and Planning Committee will meet on April 28 at 2:30 by Zoom. The Zoom link can be obtained by contacting the Senate Office.
- As a member of the Commencement Committee, Dr. McGinnis announced that volunteers are needed to help at the commencement ceremonies on May 13, 14, and 15. Those interested should contact Ms. Chelsea Nollau in the office of Executive Events.
- Dr. McGinnis thanked all of the members of the University Assembly and all the Senate/Assembly committees for their service throughout the year. He especially thanked the committee chairs for their extra work during this academic year.

Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Kristin Sobolik):

- Chancellor Sobolik announced that the university is being recognized in the media for all of the great things UMSL is doing. More information about UMSL's media coverage, can be found at: <https://blogs.umsr.edu/news/?s=media+coverage>
- Chancellor Sobolik congratulated the Men's Golf Team as the 2022 GLVC Champions. The Women's Golf Team also did well as runners-up.
- Congratulations to the five women who recently won the Trailblazers Awards which focused on healing and empowerment.
- Chancellor Sobolik and other UMSL representatives have been making a lot of trips to the Missouri Capital to work with legislators and to advocate for UMSL.
- UMSL recently hosted the State of the County Address in the Touhill Lee Theatre. Chancellor Sobolik reported that she continues to advocate for ARPA funding for UMSL.
- A Town Hall meeting was held recently to meet with local residents regarding the North St. Louis County Business and Workforce District. About 75 community members attended the meeting on South Campus.

- The Mercantile Library just celebrated its 175th anniversary. Chancellor Sobolik attended their recent gala and stated that the Mercantile Library is a huge asset to UMSL.
- The scholarship breakfast was recently held at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. This event gives student scholarship recipients an opportunity to engage with their donors and to thank them for their generosity.
- The Faculty Researchers and Innovators Ceremony was held on April 8. Chancellor Sobolik was pleased to report that research expenditures are expected to break new records again this year for the fifth year in a row.
- UMSL and St. Louis University are co-leading the R&D initiative for the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Center (AMIC) STL which is the centerpiece of the St. Louis regional Build Back Better proposal (\$100M federal proposal).
- The Taylor Geospatial Institute was just announced. The institute is a coalescence of eight different institutions collaborating with the geospatial community who are building the NGA facility in St. Louis. Chancellor Sobolik reminded the Assembly that last year she signed an educational program agreement with the NGA.
- Focus St. Louis' What's Right with the Region Award will recognize UMSL's SUCCEED Program at an event on May 12 at the Sheldon.
- Chancellor Sobolik was pleased to announce that all of the six commencement ceremonies will be in person on May 13, 14, and 15. During the commencement ceremonies, golden grads (alumni that graduated 50 years ago) will take part in the commencement activities.
- St. Louis Public Radio will be celebrating 50 years in radio at a gala at the Four Seasons Hotel on May 20, 2022. UMSL has been their partner for all 50 years.

Report of the Staff Association (Ms. Olivia Mendez-Alm):

Ms. Mendez-Alm stated that everyone is invited to Mirthweek this week. Some free tickets will be available for staff to enjoy some food items at the Mirthweek festivities and to have a chance to get to know more of the campus community. The Staff Association is focusing on providing some professional development opportunities for staff. There will be some lunch and learning opportunities available during the month of May. Ms. Mendez-Alm also encouraged everyone to volunteer to assist with the upcoming commencement ceremonies.

Report of the Student Government Association (Mr. Joseph Methner):

Mr. Methner reported that this is his last report as the SGA President because he will be graduating in May. He reported that the Student Government Association has completed its elections for next year. The new SGA President for next year is Sydney Stark. The Vice President is Ashton Hartman. The Comptroller will be Josh Conley. Nine new SGA senators will be starting in the Fall. The SGA is excited about the student engagement they are seeing for the upcoming year. The inauguration of the new SGA officers will be held on May 6 in the SGA Chambers. The SGA-sponsored Safe Walk has been delayed the past couple years due to COVID but is expected to return in the Fall. The Student Representative on the Board of Curators will be an UMSL student for the next two years. Final interviews are taking place and the position should be filled in July. Mr. Methner thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to serve as the SGA President for the past two years. Dr. McGinnis thanked him for a job well done. The University Assembly gave him a warm round of applause for his efforts.

Administrator Evaluation Committee Report (Dr. McGinnis for Dr. Natalie Bolton):

Dr. McGinnis explained that Dr. Bolton could not attend the meeting due to her serving on jury duty. Dr. McGinnis gave the report for her. Dr. McGinnis reported that this year the Chancellor's Direct Reports were evaluated. The following administrators were reviewed by faculty and staff this year:

- Tanika Busch
- Chris Spilling
- Lori Flanagan
- Tanisha Stevens

Dr. McGinnis reported that a total of 243 responses were received for the four individuals evaluated. The Chancellor received the evaluation results. The results are included in the individual's annual evaluation (e.g. to discuss changes from last evaluation). He explained that the results provide feedback and ideas for how the individual can improve. Those who have been evaluated will receive a copy of their own results.

Other Business:

Dr. Michelle Ciurria, an adjunct representative on the University Assembly, addressed the meeting attendees. She reminded the Assembly that at the last meeting, she requested that the adjuncts should have a designated report on the University Assembly agenda. She said that the Senate Steering Committee responded to her request and stated that every faculty member is part of the faculty as a whole with the Senate Chair as its representative. Since adjuncts are part of the faculty, a separate report from the adjuncts would not be in order. Dr. Ciurria said that she disagreed with this decision because she feels that the Senate does not represent adjuncts and would like the Senate Steering Committee to reconsider their decision.

Dr. McGinnis responded that, in principle, there are four constituencies of the university – the students, the staff, the faculty, and the administration. He explained that the collected rules and regulations, as well as the UMSL bylaws, do not recognize adjuncts as an independent group, but that adjuncts are a part of the faculty. He further stated that he acknowledges the adjunct's concerns and is willing to work with them. However, Dr. McGinnis asked that the adjunct representatives work within the process and with the Senate Chair to find a mutually acceptable solution before taking concerns public. Dr. McGinnis asked the Senate Parliamentarian, Dr. Stuerke, if there was anything else to add procedurally.

Dr. Stuerke reinforced what Dr. McGinnis stated. She explained that the Senate cannot validly act outside the process and what is being requested would require a change to the bylaws. Any change to the bylaws would require a proposal being approved by the Senate, the faculty and all the way to the Board of Curators. Dr. Stuerke confirmed her statement with the Chair of the Bylaws and Rules Committee (Dr. Bhatia) who was in attendance. Dr. Bhatia agreed.

There being no other business, Dr. McGinnis adjourned the University Assembly meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Pickard
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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