Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University Assembly
April 28, 2020 – 3 p.m.
Zoom

Senate Chair Alice Hall called the Zoom meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Hall asked for approval of the minutes from the Assembly meeting on Feb. 25, 2020. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Alice Hall):
Dr. Hall stated that this will be the last meeting of the University Assembly for this academic year. She thanked the members of the University Assembly and Senate, as well as all of the members of the committees, for their work and collaboration throughout the year, but particularly during this challenging semester. Dr. Hall reported that Chancellor Sobolik will provide an update on the COVID-19 situation and Ms. Tanika Busch will present information on the budget. Dr. Hall said that the Assembly will also be briefed on plans for the Fall semester.

Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Kristin Sobolik):
Chancellor Sobolik told the University Assembly that she appreciates all of the hard work that everyone has done to complete the semester during the COVID-19 pandemic. She reported that UMSL has received $5.9M in federal stimulus funds for COVID relief. She stated that $2.9M of that $5.9M is CARES Act funding and will be given directly to students. Chancellor Sobolik reported that UMSL faculty and staff have contributed more than $60,000 to the Triton Emergency Fund to help students in need. She explained that the Unified Command Team was working on plans to re-populate the campus. The Team is planning to use a phased approach with identified essential employees reporting in the first phase. More information will be sent to the campus community as plans are finalized. Chancellor Sobolik addressed the questions of the Assembly members.

Budget Update (Ms. Tanika Busch):
Ms. Tanika Busch, Interim Chief Financial Officer, reported on the status of the FY 2020 budget which ends on June 30, 2020. She stated that even though UMSL has received about $2.9M in funding for COVID-related expenses, UMSL will face budget cuts. It is expected that a 15% reduction is needed for FY 2021. Ms. Busch explained that every unit has been asked to submit reduction scenarios for 5 – 20 percent. The scenarios are due to the CFO by May 8. The campus budget is due to UM System the first week of June. Ms. Busch answered questions of the Assembly members and directed them to the UMSL budget website for more information and to submit budget suggestions.

Fall Schedule (Ms. Beth Eckelkamp/Dr. Keeta Holmes/Dr. Amber Reinhart):
Ms. Beth Eckelkamp, Associate Provost for Student Success, spoke to the University Assembly about how the university was going to address the complexities of the Fall schedule amidst the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. She explained that the administrators are considering a hybrid learning model to address the needs of students. Dr. Amber Reinhart, Provost's Faculty Fellow, reported that they have been working with the Registrar's office to create some options for course meeting patterns in classrooms and possible changes in classroom meeting times.

Dr. Keeta Holmes, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) reported that the CTL will be available to assist faculty in creating hybrid courses. Ms. Eckelkamp stated that a survey has been sent to students to get feedback on what worked well and what needs improvement in their experience of remote teaching during the COVID-19 Spring semester. The attendees asked questions and provided feedback regarding the plan for the Fall schedule. Ms. Eckelkamp stated that the administration is aware that the meeting patterns vary for different instructors and different disciplines. Faculty will have input on the patterns that best meet the needs of the department or course, while still keeping everyone safe. The goal is to maintain rigor, keep everyone safe, but be flexible and ready to pivot to online teaching, if necessary. As the plans progress for the Fall, deans and department chairs will be sharing more information.

Report of the Staff Association (Ms. Tiffany Izard Magee):
Ms. Izard Magee reported that the Staff Association has created a Zoom program called Motivated in May. She stated that the Zoom program immediately follows the weekly Human Resource Zoom meetings on Wednesdays at 12:30. She encouraged staff members to join the session.

Report of the Student Government Association (SGA) (Ms. McKenzie Schuessler):
Ms. Schuessler reported that this was her last meeting as SGA President due to her graduating in May. She stated that the SGA elections for next year's officers concluded last week. She reported that Mr. Joseph Methner was elected as the new SGA president. Mr. Methner said that he was looking forward to working with the University Assembly in his new role.

Ms. Schuessler reported that the SGA has continued to share information with students during the COVID-19 situation. She stated that the SGA had a very productive year and presented a list of the following SGA accomplishments:

- Implemented an election committee and updated SGA rules
- Completed their first year with an all-woman SGA executive committee
- Co-sponsored and created an amendment to Intercampus Student Council (ISC) to change voting structure so that it is equal for all four campuses
- Planned and implemented the Tenth Annual Safety Walk and wrote a 30-page report
- Improved transparency between SGA and leadership
- Passed a resolution in the SGA assembly condemning the actions of hate groups or individuals
- Improved SGA relationship with Chief Financial Officer
- Participated in Chancellor Search
- Participated in COVID-19 discussions

Ms. Schuessler thanked everyone for the opportunity for her and other SGA presidents to continue to participate in this shared governance structure.

There being no other business, Dr. Hall adjourned the University Assembly meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Gibb
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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