

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University Assembly
February 25, 2020 – 3 p.m.
402 JCPenney**

Senate Chair Alice Hall called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Hall asked for approval of the minutes from the Assembly meeting on Nov. 12, 2019. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Alice Hall):

- Dr. Hall reminded the University Assembly that the Homecoming Chili Feed will be held on Feb. 27. She encouraged the attendees to come to the event.
- Dr. Hall welcomed the two newly-elected adjunct representatives for the Spring Semester – Mr. Gary Flotron from the Finance Department and Ms. Michelle Ciorria from the Philosophy Department. Dr. Hall also welcomed Mr. Brian Speicher who replaced Dr. David Rose as the Economics Department senator.
- Dr. Hall reminded the attendees that the nominations for the Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence are due on March 6 to the Senate office.
- Dr. Hall stated that at a recent IFC meeting, the new eCompliance system was discussed. She explained that UM System is working on changing the Collected Rule and Regulation to make the reporting of conflict of interest easier for adjunct faculty. The proposed change to the regulation will allow part-time faculty to complete the conflict of interest documents as they are hired. This change will allow the process to be less burdensome for the adjunct faculty.
- Dr. Hall explained that she recently asked the University Assembly Committee Chairs for a report on their accomplishments during the Fall semester. She reported the following highlights from the Assembly Committees:
 - Physical Facilities Committee – The committee participated in the interview process of the new Executive Director of Facilities Management. The Committee has also reviewed the work order system and is discussing new locks for classrooms and disability access issues. The committee has been informed that the elevators will be closed in Woods Hall and Express Scripts Hall this summer. They are working with Facilities Management on a message to inform the campus community and discussing what alternatives can be provided for those affected by these upcoming closures.
 - Administrator Evaluation Committee – Each March the Administrator Evaluation Committee conducts an evaluation survey for a specific group of administrators which rotates on a 3-year cycle. This year, administrators who report to the Chancellor are in the rotation. Several people from that small group are in interim positions or are very new and Dr. Sobolik is serving as the Interim Chancellor and Provost. Given all this, the Committee decided that they are going to wait until next year and consult with the new chancellor before deciding who should be evaluated and when. Therefore, there will be no administrator evaluation sent to faculty and staff this year.

- Budget and Planning Committee – The Budget and Planning Committee met on February 17. The committee received a financial update and an update on plans for campus facilities, as well as an update on the strategic enrollment plan. The committee was also briefed on the student job classification changes.
- Information Technology Committee – The committee was informed that the current CIO – Dr. Jane Williams – is retiring the end of March. The search for the next CIO is underway, and the committee is represented on that search committee. In addition, the committee has been consulting on two different policy proposals. The committee has discussed the roll-out of Zoom Pro and a soft rollout of Office 365 in the coming months. The IT Committee has three subgroups 1) Course Evaluation Working Group 2) Canvas Survey Working Group; 3) Classroom Response System Working Group (iClicker).
- Recruitment, Admissions, Retention & Student Financial Aid Committee – The committee endorsed a proposal to allow for grade modification of courses taken at other UM campuses. The committee is in the process of developing a survey for faculty concerning their perspectives on mid-term grades. The committee discussed data on student financial holds. The committee discussed issues related to academic suspension and financial aid, both for the cases of undergraduates and MS degree students.
- The Student Affairs Committee – The Committee approved new student organizations. They have reviewed and offered feedback on campus free speech policies as part of ongoing discussions of campus visitors and free speech concerns on the quad, as well as monitored ongoing growth of the Triton Pantry and pop-up food pantries and Snack Pack program. They discussed ongoing improvements to accessibility on campus and prepared for further discussion of problematic areas to be addressed by Facilities and other units. Improvements have been made to the library after discussions between the Able Disable Partnership student organization and library staff and administration.

Report of the Interim Chancellor (Dr. Kristin Sobolik):

- Interim Chancellor Sobolik announced that the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching affirmed UMSL’s success by naming it as one of the 119 U.S. colleges and universities in 2020 to receive the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, an elective designation that indicates institutional commitment to community engagement.
- The University Assembly received a brief update on the Strategic Enrollment Plan. Working with RNL, the strategic enrollment group recommended that resources be moved to focus on adult students. It was also recommended that additional recruiters are needed in the colleges, and that the website should be remodeled to improve recruitment.
- UMSL administrators will be reviewing a number of proposals to lease/sell the Normandie Golf Course. UMSL intends to ensure that a purchaser or lessee will keep it as a golf course.
- Interim Chancellor Sobolik stated that there will be an update on the Strategic Plan at the next Budget and Planning Committee meeting. An overview and analysis of the Strategic Plan will be shared with the campus community.
- Interim Chancellor Sobolik reported on the success of UMSL’s student athletes, both academically and in their sports.

Report of the Staff Association (Ms. Tiffany Izard Magee):

- An all-staff meeting will be held on March 19. At the meeting, in honor of Women’s History Month, the Staff Association has decided to pay tribute to 20 of UMSL’s women staff members.
- The Staff Association Wellness Committee is organizing an all-staff field day to promote wellness. The event is scheduled to be held in May.
- The Focus on the Future staff development program will be held on June 9 & 10. Ms. Izard Magee asked that staff members be encouraged to attend all of these events.

Report of the Student Government Association (SGA) (Ms. McKenzie Schuessler):

- Ms. Schuessler reported that the SGA Campus Safe Walk was held in November. Over 60 students, staff, and faculty attended the event to identify safety concerns on campus. The findings were reported to administrators who will follow up on those concerns.
- Ms. Schuessler reported that the Intercampus Student Council (ISC) constitution did not have an equal voting structure for each of the four campuses in UM System. Ms. Schuessler explained that she partnered with UMKC to sponsor an amendment to the constitution to correct the voting structure. She reported that the amendment has passed and now each of the campuses have equal voting in the ISC.
- Ms. Schuessler stated that the ISC has interviewed eight candidates for the position of Student Representative to the Board of Curators. Three candidates were recommended and forwarded to the governor for his consideration.
- SGA elections are coming up. The filing deadline is March 6. Ms. Schuessler reported that last year’s election did not go as smoothly as SGA would have liked. To remedy that, this year a new and improved election committee was organized. The general election will be held in April.
- Ms. Schuessler reported that she was serving as the student representative on the Chancellor Search Committee. To gather information on what students valued in the next chancellor, SGA organized a town hall meeting for students. She stated that the students felt that the following characteristics were important to them in the next chancellor: 1) Students want a visible chancellor; 2) Students want a chancellor who will preserve the prestige of an UMSL degree and ensure that their degree has value; 3) Students believe that the next chancellor should value shared governance and that the student’s voice is an equal voice.

Student Job Classification (Mr. Jim Hertel):

Mr. Jim Hertel, Executive Director of Human Resources, reported on changes to student job classifications. He explained that the changes are due to the state minimum wage increasing to \$12.00 by 2023. He reported that there are currently about 900 student employees that will be affected by this change. The minimum wage adjustments will add \$1.7 million to the payroll by 2023. Mr. Hertel explained the procedures and next steps that will be taken to complete this project and addressed any questions or concerns from the Faculty Senate.

There being no other business, the University Assembly meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Gibb
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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