

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Faculty Senate
January 26, 2016 - 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. Keith Stine. Dr. Stine asked for approval of the minutes from the meeting on Dec. 8, 2015. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Keith Stine):

- Dr. Stine welcomed Interim UM System President Michael Middleton to the Senate meeting and thanked him for his attendance.
- Dr. Stine reported that the members of the Chemistry & Biochemistry Department have elected Jim O'Brien to replace Chris Spilling as their senator. Dr. Spilling began his new administrative position as of Jan. 1.
- Dr. Stine reminded the attendees that the Faculty Senate is the co-sponsor of the Homecoming Chili Contest again this year. He invited them to attend the lunch on Feb. 3 from 11:30 – 1:30 in the MSC Century Rooms. He asked the faculty to volunteer for one of the 30-minute time slots to serve the chili. He explained that the proceeds will be given to a local charity. Dr. Stine encouraged everyone to attend the event.
- Chair Stine stated that Senate elections will begin soon. Departments who have a representative whose term is expiring will receive an e-mail election ballot in the next couple of weeks to vote for the department's representative. The at-large elections will follow the election of the departmental senator.

Dr. Stine gave the following report from the Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC):

- The IFC met twice since the last meeting, once on December 14 by telepresence and in person in Columbia on January 22. At each of these meetings, the President called in and listened to campus reports, updated the IFC members on various topics, and answered questions.
- Topics covered in December included continued discussion of possible improvements in post-tenure review, the issue of the concern attracted by significant number of waivers of the collected rule on teaching loads requiring that each faculty member teach 180 student credit hours and 12 sections per year and how this could be addressed. There was some discussion of implementation details of the approved 'ability to work policy', a government relations update, and a discussion of the changes to the CRR on student conduct and conduct of student organizations to be consistent with the Title IX related changes implemented last year.

- Topics covered in January included continued discussion of the issue of faculty teaching waivers. A task force is being established to review the data from the campuses on teaching waivers. One faculty member from each campus familiar with waivers is being sought along with one member from each campus Provost office. The post-tenure review subcommittee reported. The subcommittee will be developing a document giving good reasons for tenure to be used as talking points by UM administrative officers to defend the tenure system against critics. The subcommittee will also develop a white paper related to policy recommendations. There was some further discussion of ways that IFC and faculty senates could interact in more meaningful ways in the future with the Board of Curators.
- The IFC received an update on the legislative atmosphere which is presently strained due to the Melissa Click story and other events at MU in November of last year. Bills are being introduced in the Missouri legislature related to requiring the posting of syllabi, limiting the number of teaching waivers, and allowing concealed guns on campuses. There was an update from HR on the new recommendations concerning retiree health benefits. A report was presented on the efforts of MU graduate students to unionize and the issues that could arise if they were to do so. A task force on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity is being formed, and is chaired by David Mitchell of the MU law school. The IFC also met Dr. Robert Schwartz, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, Research and Economic Development who is taking over the position previously held by Dr. Hank Foley.

Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Thomas George):

Chancellor George provided an update on the progress of goals for UMSL's Strategic Plan:

- Academic Analytics: UMSL has met the goal of ranking in the Academic Analytics Top Ten in terms of faculty productivity, scholarships, and grants.
- Number of degrees conferred: The goal states that by 2018, UMSL will increase the number of undergraduate, masters, and doctoral degrees conferred by 20%. The current number of degrees conferred is 3,146. Chancellor George reported that we should be able to meet the goal.
- Research funding: Chancellor George reported that research funding is up \$1 million. The goal has been met.
- Student diversity: The goal is to increase the number of degrees awarded to minority students. Chancellor George stated that UMSL has exceeded that goal.
- Graduation rates for six years: The goal percentage is 54%. The UMSL rate fell to 41% last year. Chancellor George said we should exceed 50% this year.
- Fundraising: UMSL's annual fundraising goal is \$25M. UMSL has met that goal.

Chancellor George reported that the budget situation has not changed since he reported on it at the last Senate meeting. He explained that next year's budget projections will be more conservative with projections at 2% less for enrollment. Dr. George said that some cutbacks will need to be made during this fiscal year. In an effort to be transparent and to keep the campus community

Remarks of Interim UM System President Michael Middleton:

President Middleton answered a variety of questions from the attendees, especially questions concerning the budget situation. He said that UM System has been working with UMSL to try to find solutions regarding budgetary issues. He commented that decreasing expenditures and making cutbacks is going to be hard. He cannot rule out layoffs, but he said there is no need to panic.

Committee on Committees Report (Dr. Alice Hall):

- Budget and Planning Committee:
Sam Wang (replaces Chris Spilling) Natural Sciences/Math Representative
- Physical Facilities, Space & General Services Committee:
Nigam Rath (replaces Chris Spilling) Natural Sciences/Math Representative
- Recruitment, Admissions, Retention & Student Financial Aid Committee:
Ambrose Kidd (replaces Michael Howard) Broad representation

Executive Session:

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

Matthew Keefer
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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