

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Faculty Senate
January 26, 2021
Zoom Meeting**

Senate Chair Alice Hall called the Faculty Senate Zoom meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Hall asked for approval of the Senate minutes from the meeting on Dec. 15, 2020. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Alice Hall):

- Dr. Hall announced that Dr. Christoph Schiessl has been elected to serve as the first faculty member to represent the Honors College on the Faculty Senate. She welcomed him to his first Senate meeting.
- The nominations for the UM System President's Awards are due Feb. 1, 2021.
- The deadline for the UMSL Research Awards is Feb. 16, 2021.
- The nominations for the Chancellor's Awards for Excellence are due March 5, 2021.
- Dr. Hall explained that due to system-wide budget cuts, some journals have been cut from the Elsevier Freedom collection. She suggested that faculty should contact their department library liaisons for more detailed information.
- Dr. Hall encouraged everyone to participate in the Homecoming Chili Feed event which is co-sponsored by the Faculty Senate. This year the event is virtual. The campus community can go to the Homecoming website to review the six recipes submitted by each of the colleges and vote on their favorite recipe to see which college will win the Golden Ladle this year.
- Dr. Hall stated that Senate elections are being held for some departments whose senators' terms are expiring. An e-mail ballot message will be distributed to those departments. She encouraged the faculty to vote to ensure their department is well represented.

Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Kristin Sobolik):

- Chancellor Sobolik explained that for the Spring semester, UMSL is using the same teaching format as the Fall semester with 60% of classes online and 40% of classes in a blended, in-person format.
- Chancellor Sobolik reported that enrollment is down by about 4.8%.
- UMSL has received an additional \$12.2M in CARES Act funding from the federal government. There will be \$2.9M of CARES Act funding distributed to students.
- Chancellor Sobolik reported that the compensation reductions will end as of Feb. 1, 2021. Chancellor Sobolik thanked everyone for helping the university attain a sustainable position for moving forward.
- Chancellor Sobolik stated that the inaugural recipients of the recently-announced UMSL Hero Awards are: Sylvia Harris, Roger Kujath, and Vinita Henry.

Update from the Provost (Dr. Marie Mora):

- Provost Mora announced that the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) Committee has submitted their recommendations to her. Provost Mora is meeting with the 12 affected department chairs to discuss the recommendations. When those meetings are completed,

the recommendations will be released to the campus community for feedback. Once the feedback is received, it will be discussed with the Budget and Planning Committee, the Academic Advisory Committee, and the Faculty Senate.

- The Extra Compensation Taskforce (ECT) has submitted their recommendations to Provost Mora regarding extra compensation for instructional activities. The information will be sent campus wide. Next, the ECT will look at compensation for department chairs and program directors, followed by a review of the Advanced Credit Program compensation. Provost Mora sincerely thanked the members of the APP and ECT for their hard work, professionalism, and care in developing their recommendations.
- Provost Mora reminded the Senate of the recently-named Faculty Fellows: Dr. Cindy Dupureur (Faculty Fellow for Faculty Success), Dr. Alicia Hutchings (Vice Provost Fellow for Student Success), and Mr. Michael Allison (Faculty Fellow for Assessment & Data Analysis).
- Provost Coffee Meetings: Provost Mora announced that this semester she will begin meeting with small groups of faculty over a virtual coffee. Faculty will be selected randomly, although she will also work to ensure the inclusion of NTT and part-time faculty. She explained that this will be another way to increase the information flow across campus and will give her the opportunity to get to know more faculty, especially as we work remotely.
- Provost Mora reminded the Senate that Dr. Joan Phillips is the new dean of the College of Business Administration and starts on March 15, 2021.

COVID Clarifications (Dr. Chris Sullivan):

Dr. Chris Sullivan, Campus Health Officer, updated the Senate on COVID-19 and its impact on the campus community. He explained that Missouri has determined that higher education faculty and staff will be part of Phase 2 vaccine distribution. Most students are expected to be included in Phase 3. However, the university encourages each individual to review the phases/tiers to identify their potential eligibility to join an earlier phase, which may change based on individual job responsibilities or health circumstances. Individuals who believe they are vaccine-eligible in a given phase can make an appointment with a health provider or contact their local health agency. He noted that most local health departments have an online Vaccine Registration Survey allowing them to contact, screen and approve individuals according to phase.

Strategic Enrollment Plan Update (Ms. Dixie Williams & Mr. Justin Roberts):

Ms. Dixie Williams, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Enrollment/Director of Admissions, provided an update on the status of the Strategic Enrollment Plan (SEP). She explained that the SEP was distributed to faculty and staff for feedback in December. The final plan will be developed in February. She elaborated on the implementation of the four pillars of the plan which are: Marketing, Outreach, and Advocacy; Enrollment Facilitation; Retention and Student Success Outcomes; and Academic Programs and Pathways. Mr. Justin Roberts, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Marketing and Communication, reported on the improvements that the Marketing and Communication Office has been developing. He highlighted some of the following improvements:

- Review and clean-up of existing web environment
- New webserver brought online in December
- Upgraded majors and degrees webpage
- New UMSL homepage that focuses on prospective students which includes a navigation bar that will improve the user experience.

Intercampus Faculty Cabinet (IFC) Report (Dr. Pamela Stuerke):

Dr. Stuerke reported that the IFC met by Zoom on Jan. 22 and discussed the following topics:

- President Choi provided the updates listed below:
 - COVID seems to be at a low level on all four campuses. President Choi has requested that UM-System faculty be included in the vaccination group of Phase 1-B, along with K-12 educators, and has not received an answer. Currently, faculty are in Phase 2, which is only slightly lower on the order of priority.
 - The legislative session has started. Legislation includes two bills intended to give the universities relief from SB 389. The budget will probably not have any increases for higher education, but may have some one-time funds. There is also the possibility of stimulus money.
 - Future challenges are real: uncertainty about enrollment, state budgets, and the economy. All four UM-System universities must be ready to pivot as necessary. He commended Chancellor Sobolik for her thoughtful approach to the budget.
 - The next Board of Curators meeting will include a strategic discussion about the value of research and scholarship.
 - Tier 1 and Tier 2 research grants are on hold indefinitely because of all the uncertainties.
- Policy discussions and information:
 - There is clarification the FMLA includes the winter break when it overlaps two semesters.
 - The IFC reviewed the revisions to the CRR on Consensual Romantic Relationships, which makes it clear that faculty and staff must not evaluate or supervise someone (student or other employee) with whom they have a current or past consensual romantic relationship, and that when those relationships exist, they must be disclosed and require approval of the plan to manage the situation.
 - A taskforce is completely revising the Dismissal for Cause CRR. The Academic Appointments and President's Authority CRRs have been revised to make them better and reflect current practice. The Ability to Work CRR is being revised to adjust timelines and clarify the process.
- New task for IFC: the President and the Board of Curators would like to hear more good news stories from the campuses. This could include exciting and relevant research, stories about students, and stories about alums. Whenever you have good news stories, please send them to IFC representatives: Jon McGinnis, Alice Hall, or Pamela Stuerke.

Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report (Mr. Michael Allison):

Dr. Hall asked the Faculty Senate to vote on the following uncomplicated curriculum proposals:

- Change to the Business Undergraduate Degree Requirements
- Change to the B.S. in Accounting
- Change to the graduate certificate in Accounting Data Analytics
- Change to the minor in Education
- Change to the Early Childhood Education Emphasis Area of the M.Ed. In Elementary Education

The Faculty Senate approved all of the above uncomplicated proposals.

Mr. Allison presented each of the following curriculum proposals to the Faculty Senate:

- Change to the policy on admissions for first-time freshmen
- Change to the policy on admissions requirements for transfer students
- Change to the B.S. in Information Systems and Technology

The Faculty Senate approved all of the above proposals.

Dr. Hall asked if there was any other business. Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Gibb

Senate/Assembly Secretary

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