

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University Assembly
November 14, 2017 - 3 p.m.
202 JCPenney**

The meeting of the University Assembly was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by the Senate Chair. Dr. Pamela Stuerke asked for approval of the minutes from the Assembly meeting on Sept. 12, 2017. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson, Dr. Pamela Stuerke:

- Dr. Stuerke announced that there was a call for grant proposals for the Open and Affordable Educational Resources Initiative. The grant program will assist faculty with the incorporation of more affordable resources for courses.
- Nominations are being accepted for the UM System President's Awards. Dr. Stuerke encouraged the senators to submit nominations for their colleagues. The deadline for submitting nominations is Dec. 22.
- Dr. Stuerke reported that nominations are being accepted for the Last Lecture Series. She explained that the Last Lecture Series gives students the opportunity to nominate professors who have made extraordinary contributions to UMSL through classroom teaching and service to the university. Students can submit nominations until Dec. 8.
- Dr. Stuerke announced that she has been contacted to participate in a Green Campus Advisory Council. The Council discusses ways for students, student organizations, faculty, and staff to promote outreach and be more environmentally friendly. Dr. Stuerke reported that this group will meet on Nov. 30 if anyone would like to participate.
- The Faculty Senate will again co-sponsor the Homecoming Chili Cook-off this year on Feb. 22. Dr. Stuerke invited everyone to participate in this lunch event in the MSC.

Report of the Chancellor, Dr. Tom George:

Chancellor George reported that UMSL has had the most construction in the past few years than ever before in campus history. In preparation of the Campus Master Plan presentation to the Board of Curators, Chancellor George reported on the capital projects from 2013 – 2018. The projects included the following which totaled \$147 million:

- Science Learning Building
- Recreation and Wellness Center
- UMSL Patient Care Center
- Anheuser Busch Hall
- Great Streets Initiative
- Benton Hall Renovation

Chancellor George explained that the next focus on the capital plan will include the following:

- Space Consolidation and Infrastructure
- Social Science Building Renovation

- Stadler Hall Renovation
- College of Nursing Simulation Training Facilities
- South Campus Power Distribution

Chancellor George provided details about the projects and explained how it would benefit the campus. He addressed the comments and questions of the Assembly.

Report of the Staff Association, Ms. Jessica Long-Pease:

Ms. Long-Pease reported that the Staff Council is working on the Focus on the Future professional development program which is held in the Spring for staff members. She also reported that she is leaving next week for maternity leave. Ms. Long-Pease stated that the staff member who was supposed to represent her while she is on leave recently submitted her notice that she will be leaving the university. The Staff Association will notify the campus community when a temporary substitute has been determined.

Report of the Student Government Association (SGA), Mr. Joseph Dordoni:

Mr. Dordoni presented the report in the absence of SGA President Sean Burkett. Mr. Dordoni reported that the Oct. 3 Campus Safe Walk was a successful event and well attended. He said that Mr. Burkett is preparing the final report from the Safe Walk and will share his results. Mr. Dordoni explained that the Intercampus Student Council met in November. They are conducting interviews for the student curator position. They hope to have their recommendations completed by the end of the year. Mr. Dordoni reported that the UMSL Student Government Association is undergoing restructuring. The SGA is discussing how they could better meet the needs of the students and looking at ways to reach out to faculty and administration. Mr. Dordoni reported that the SGA has created a resolution on shared governance. The SGA voted to adopt that resolution at the last student assembly meeting. The SGA hopes that this resolution will start a conversation about improving shared governance at UMSL. He said he is planning to introduce the resolution later in the New Business portion of this meeting. A senator asked Mr. Dordoni if they had considered that perhaps students, staff, and faculty should vote separately on campus issues, rather than voting on them at University Assembly meetings. Mr. Dordoni said that may be an option. He stated that the SGA has researched shared governance at other comparative universities. He reported that UMSL students have the best shared governance out of the UM System campuses and they are grateful, but they are hoping to make it better.

Bylaws & Rules Committee Report, Dr. Sanjiv Bhatia:

Dr. Bhatia reported that the Information Technology Committee recommended that the three subcommittees determined by the Senate and Assembly Operating Rules be eliminated. The Committee's rationale stated "Members of the IT Committee recommend disbanding its fixed subcommittees. Over the past several years, the Committee has found the fixed subcommittees cumbersome. In their place, the IT Committee will utilize ad-hoc subcommittees to respond as needed to the Assembly, to ITS, and to the campus community as a whole."

The University Assembly voted in favor of the change to the structure of the IT Committee.

Budget and Planning Committee Report, Dr. Pamela Stuerke:

Dr. Stuerke explained that Committee Chair Greg Geisler reported that the Budget and Planning Committee did not meet this month. The committee does not have specific meeting times scheduled yet. A senator reminded the Assembly that the notices of upcoming budget and planning meetings should be distributed to the entire campus community.

Other Business:

Student Senator Daniel Ryerson made a motion that an SGA resolution which expressed their concern over a disproportionate representation of the University Assembly be adopted. Senate Chair Stuerke explained that the motion was out of order since the Senate Operating Rules requires that documents should be filed with the Senate Office in advance of the meeting when actions are presented. She explained that this rule is in place so that all Assembly members have an opportunity to review and consider any documents before they are discussed at the Assembly meeting. Dr. Stuerke asked the University Assembly if they were willing to discuss the resolution. **A motion was made for the Assembly to consider discussing the resolution. The motion was seconded. By a show of hands, the motion passed to allow the Assembly to discuss the resolution.**

A very lengthy discussion ensued. Many members shared their concerns and comments. Some of the discussion included the following views:

- It is important to follow the correct process/procedure when submitting proposals to the Assembly or Senate. Proposals should be submitted to the Senate Chair. The Senate Chair will then forward the proposal to the appropriate committee or determine the best course of action for the proposal. After a proposal has been reviewed by a committee, it is reviewed by the Senate Steering Committee who determines the agenda for the Senate/Assembly meetings. If the Senate Steering Committee decides to include the item on the agenda, the document is distributed to the Senate/Assembly before the meeting to allow sufficient time for review. Senators commented that by following the correct procedure, it shows respect for others' time and consideration, as well as creates a sense of goodwill.
- Faculty members acknowledged the initiative of the students to create a proposal and to bring it forward. It was noted that the students play an important role in the Assembly and in shared governance. Their input is valued.
- When considering the SGA's resolution, faculty members requested that data from other comparative universities be included in the proposal.

A motion was made to amend the SGA resolution. The motion was seconded. The motion to amend failed.

A motion was made to table the resolution. The motion was seconded. The motion to table the resolution passed. This topic could be re-visited at a future Assembly meeting.

Some faculty members were concerned that the student's video recording of the Assembly's vote could be perceived as intentionally intimidating.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Gibb
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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