

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University Assembly
November 16, 2021 – 3 p.m.
Zoom meeting**

Senate Chair Jon McGinnis called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Dr. McGinnis asked for approval of the minutes from the Assembly meeting on Sept. 21, 2021. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Jon McGinnis):

- Dr. McGinnis reported that the Senate's five-year review will be held on January 28. He is currently working on the self-study report. More details will be provided about the scheduling of review sessions in the next couple of months.
- The Board of Curators will be on campus on Nov. 18. The Faculty Senate is responsible for creating a presentation for the curators that will be featured during their lunch. This year's theme is student engagement in the community. Dr. McGinnis stated that there will be nine great students lined up to talk to them about their projects and highlight their good work during their time here at UMSL.
- The Budget and Planning Committee met recently. One of the agenda items was a briefing on the Campus Master Plan which was endorsed by the committee. Chancellor Sobolik will present the Campus Master Plan to the Board of Curators on Thursday.
- Dr. McGinnis reminded everyone that University Assembly and Senate meetings, as well as some committee meetings, like Budget and Planning, are open to the campus community. If anyone is interested in attending, they can contact the Faculty Senate Office at senate@umsl.edu for the day and time of the meetings and if it is meeting virtually, the Zoom link. He also stated that UMSL is fortunate to have a University Assembly. He explained that UMSL's University Assembly is unique and that other UM System campuses do not have an assembly. UMSL is fortunate that its University Assembly gives faculty, staff and students an opportunity to work together to make our campus stronger.
- Dr. McGinnis reminded the attendees to nominate a hard-working colleague for an UMSL Hero's Award.

Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Kristin Sobolik):

- Chancellor Sobolik reported that she will be giving three presentations to the Board of Curators when they are on campus on Nov. 18. The first presentation will be to present the Campus Master Plan, the second presentation will feature UMSL highlights, and the third presentation will focus on UMSL's research excellence.
- Governor Parson recently came to tour UMSL's new Simulation Lab (Phase 1) in the College of Nursing. UMSL received \$1.5M from the state to help move Phase 1 of the lab forward. The governor was able to see the students in action in the lab. The simulation laboratories will allow UMSL to increase undergraduate enrollment and the number of RNs entering the workforce.

- Chancellor Sobolik reported that the Advancement Office hosted an Alumni Engagement event recently in Washington, DC for the UMSL alums who live in the DC area. Besides those who attended the event, she also visited some other UMSL alums and donors in that area.
- Chancellor Sobolik announced that the UMSL Athletic teams are doing well. Fourteen out of nineteen teams earned all GLVC awards which means the team average has a GPA of 3.30 or above all year. At a recent recognition night, 150 student-athletes were recognized because they earned academic honors.
- Chancellor Sobolik gave kudos to the winners of the UMSL Hero Awards for the months of August, September, and October. She encouraged everyone to submit nominations for the UMSL Hero Award at: <https://www.umsl.edu/chancellor/heroes/index.html>
- Chancellor Sobolik announced that plans are underway for an in-person commencement ceremony on Dec. 18 & 19.

Chancellor Sobolik responded to questions from the University Assembly.

Report of the Staff Association (Ms. Olivia Mendez-Alm):

- Ms. Mendez-Alm reported that at the last Assembly meeting, she reported concerns related to staff morale. She stated that since the last Assembly meeting, the Staff Association has been working in conjunction with Human Resources to get a better understanding of the factors that are leading to staff morale concerns and what can be done to address those issues.
- The Staff Association distributed a survey to the staff and received 133 responses. The staff were also invited to attend a series of focus groups organized by HR. Ms. Mendez-Alm reported that the first focus group was held this morning (Nov. 16) and it was fantastic. The focus groups worked on action items to address the staff morale issue.
- Ms. Mendez-Alm said that she appreciates the level of openness from the administration in order to have these conversations. She stated that she and Senate Chair McGinnis have also talked about ways that faculty and staff can work together.
- Ms. Mendez-Alm announced that the next All-Staff meeting will be held on Dec. 8.

Report of the Student Government Association (Mr. Joseph Methner):

Mr. Methner was not able to attend the meeting due to illness. However, he did want to inform the University Assembly that the Student Government Association now has four new student senators that will be starting in December.

Budget Update (Ms. Tanika Busch):

Ms. Busch, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, presented various power point slides that explained UMSL historical operating margins, a tuition update, enrollment totals, and the budget projection for FY 22. She also briefed the Assembly about the introduction of a 5-year financial plan which will provide the leadership team with an understanding of the key connections between operation drivers, strategic objectives and finances for the upcoming years. Ms. Busch reported that budget reductions are not expected for this fiscal year. Merit increases are planned for next year's budget.

Bylaws and Rules Committee Report (Dr. Sanjiv Bhatia):

Dr. Bhatia presented the following four proposals for changes to the Faculty Senate Operating Rules regarding non-voting members on four of the Assembly committees:

CURRENT	PROPOSED	RATIONALE
<p>Faculty Senate Operating Rules Page 10, Paragraph 11b currently states:</p> <p>b. The University Assembly Budget and Planning Committee shall consist of the following voting members: the Chancellor, the Senate Chairperson, two non-faculty employees selected by the Staff Association, one eligible faculty member from each of the parallel units, and two students. Non-voting members of the Committee shall consist of the Provost, the Vice Chancellors for Finance and Administration and Advancement, and the executive leaders for research and student affairs.</p>	<p>b. The University Assembly Budget and Planning Committee shall consist of the following voting members: the Chancellor, the Senate Chairperson, two non-faculty employees selected by the Staff Association, one eligible faculty member from each of the parallel units, and two students. Non-voting members of the committee shall consist of the Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration. Non-voting members of the Committee shall consist of the Provost, the Vice Chancellors for Finance and Administration and Advancement, and the executive leaders for research and student affairs.</p>	<p>The proposed change will reduce the nonvoting membership of the committee to include only the Provost and the CFO. This change will allow the other executive-level administrators to make decisions about the best use of their time. Since the committee meetings are open meetings, they can always choose to attend the meetings. Further, the committee can always ask to hear from any one of them, if the topic under consideration is particularly relevant for them.</p>

CURRENT	PROPOSED	RATIONALE
<p>Faculty Senate Operating Rules Page 11, para 11f</p> <p>f. The University Assembly Committee on Information Technology shall consist of the following voting members: one eligible faculty member from each of the parallel units; one graduate research assistant and three additional student representatives; and two representatives elected by the Staff Association. Non-voting members of the Committee shall consist of the Provost, one member each from executive leaders of Finance and Information Technology Services, and the executive leaders of research and student affairs. The executive in charge of Information Technology Services shall be a non-voting member.</p>	<p>f. The University Assembly Committee on Information Technology shall consist of the following voting members: one eligible faculty member from each of the parallel units; one graduate research assistant and three additional student representatives; and two representatives elected by the Staff Association. Non-voting members of the Committee shall consist of the Provost, one member each from executive leaders of Finance and Information Technology Services, and the executive leaders of research and student affairs. The executive in charge of Information Technology Services shall be a non-voting member.</p>	<p>This change will allow the executive-level administrators to make the best use of their time. Since the committee meetings are open meetings, they can always choose to attend the meetings. Further, the committee can always ask to hear from any one of them, if the topic under consideration is particularly relevant for them.</p>

CURRENT	PROPOSED	RATIONALE
Faculty Senate Operating Rules Page 11, para 11e e. The University Assembly Committee on Physical Facilities, Space, and General Services shall consist of the Provost, the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration the executive in charge of Facilities Management, one eligible faculty member from each of the parallel units, three students, and one representative selected by the Staff Association.	e. The University Assembly Committee on Physical Facilities, Space, and General Services shall consist of the Provost, the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration the executive in charge of Facilities Management, one eligible faculty member from each of the parallel units, three students, and one representative selected by the Staff Association.	This change will allow the executive-level administrators to make the best use of their time. Since the committee meetings are open meetings, they can always choose to attend the meetings. Further, the committee can always ask to hear from any one of them, if the topic under consideration is particularly relevant for them.

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The Faculty Senate voted in favor of all four proposals. The Senate Operating Rules will be updated to reflect these changes.

Other business:

Dr. Michelle Ciurria, an adjunct representative on the University Assembly, shared her thoughts on three priorities for adjuncts related to increasing equity, community, and inclusion. Dr. McGinnis stated that he very much appreciates the work of adjuncts at UMSL.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Pickard
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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