

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
University of Missouri-St. Louis  
Faculty Senate  
October 15, 2019  
202 JCPenney**

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Senate Chair Alice Hall. Dr. Hall asked for approval of the Senate minutes from the meeting on September 10, 2019. The minutes were approved as written.

**Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Alice Hall):**

- Dr. Hall welcomed UM System President Mun Choi, Mr. Tim McIntosh, UM System Director of Recruitment, Ms. Marsha Fischer, UM System Associate Vice President of Human Resources, and Mr. Kirk Richter, the co-chair of the Chancellor Search Committee and an UMSL alum. Dr. Hall explained that they attended today's meeting to inform the Senate about the search for the next chancellor.
- Dr. Hall reported that the Budget and Planning Committee has met and re-elected Dr. Theresa Coble as the chair. The committee plans to meet later this month.
- Dr. Hall stated that the Senate is again co-sponsoring the Center for Teaching & Learning's colloquium on promotion. She encouraged the senators to remind their colleagues of the following sessions:
  - Oct. 29 @ 10:30 – Tenure & Promotion for Tenure-Track/Tenured Faculty
  - Oct. 31 @ 9:30 – Preparing for Promotion for Non-Tenure Track Faculty
- Dr. Hall reminded the Senate that the open enrollment period for benefits is Oct 14 – 25. She explained that Unum is the new plan administrator for Life Insurance, Accidental Death & Dismemberment, and Long Term Disability (LTD). Faculty and staff will have the one-time unique opportunity to add or increase their basic life, spousal life, and LTD coverage without going through the evidence of insurability process. She stated that this means even if you were previously denied for coverage, you can receive a guaranteed benefit issuance during this annual enrollment. She encouraged everyone to sign up for benefits during this open enrollment period.

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

- Interim Chancellor Sobolik reported that she recently attended a successful alumni event that was held in Washington, DC. She explained that Washington, DC has a significant number of UMSL alums in that area. Interim Chancellor Sobolik also visited legislators to remind them of the good work that UMSL is doing.
- Interim Chancellor Sobolik announced that the Founders Dinner was held on Oct. 10. About 750 guests attended the event to celebrate UMSL and to honor donors and alums. The new video that will be used for the fundraising campaign was also introduced at the event.

- Interim Chancellor Sobolik reported that there are new faculty enhancement initiatives coming up. One initiative is the launching of a women's faculty network which will have its first meeting on Oct. 16. Another initiative is designed to support mid-career faculty. Two informational sessions are scheduled for November.
- Interim Chancellor Sobolik stated that last week she attended an enrollment strategy planning meeting. Representatives from Ruffalo Noel Levitz and seven of the working groups presented an analysis on how to move forward with increasing enrollment.
- The Advancement Office is preparing for a capital fundraising campaign. Mr. Paul Herring will brief the Budget and Planning Committee at its next meeting.
- Two new program proposals have been recently approved by the Board of Curators. The first new program approved is for Sports Management. The second approved program is for Organizational Leadership. The program proposals will be forwarded to MDHE for final approval.

#### **Chancellor's Search (UM System President Mun Choi):**

UM System President Choi explained the chancellor search process and displayed the list of members on the search committee. He asked for faculty input about the demonstrated experience, leadership characteristics, and desired qualities of the next chancellor. The Senate shared their insights on the qualities in a chancellor they felt were important to the growth of UMSL. President Choi stated that if the timeline goes as planned, the next chancellor should be in place by next summer. For more information and a list of the members of the search committee, visit the following website: [https://www.umsystem.edu/ums/hr/tmr/chancellor\\_search\\_ums](https://www.umsystem.edu/ums/hr/tmr/chancellor_search_ums)

#### **Faculty Athletics Representative Report (Dr. Matt Taylor):**

As the Faculty Athletics Representative, Dr. Matt Taylor provided a report to the Senate. He explained the responsibilities of the Faculty Athletics Representative. Dr. Taylor highlighted the athletic and academic success of the student athletes. In AY 2018-19, the average student-athlete GPA was 3.34 and the academic success rate was 83%. He reported that the student athletes are very involved with the community. They had a total of 1,143 hours of community service during the 2018-2019 academic year. Dr. Taylor encouraged the faculty to read the Student Absence Policy which explains that some accommodations should be made for students who are participating in university-sanctioned activities. The Student Absence Policy can be found at the following link: <http://www.umsi.edu/services/academic/policy/student-absence.html>

#### **UMSL Cultural Center (Dr. Marie Mora & Dr. Curt Coonrod):**

Dr. Mora and Dr. Coonrod displayed the new website for the UMSL Cultural Center. They explained that a draft report about the cultural center is available on the website. Dr. Mora asked the Senate and the campus community to review the report and provide feedback. To read more information, please visit the new website at: <https://www.umsi.edu/culturalcenter/>

#### **Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) Report (Dr. Jon McGinnis):**

Dr. McGinnis informed the Senate about the following topics that were discussed at the IFC telepresence meeting on Oct. 9:

- Ability to Work (CRR 330.100): Dr. McGinnis reported that UM System is working on some minor revisions. He will let the Senate know about any changes that may affect UMSL.

- UM System Bookstore: McGraw-Hill and Cengage may be merging and the UM System Bookstore has been working to negotiate a contract that would lower the price-per-semester that students pay for textbooks from this company. If faculty are having any issues with the open access books with McGraw-Hill or Cengage, they are asked to contact the UM System Bookstore (rather than the UMSL bookstore). A senator asked if there was any data available that indicates if students are really saving money by using the open access books provided by McGraw-Hill and Cengage.
- Mid-Career Faculty Development: IFC has been discussing a white paper that was created to identify the needs of mid-career faculty development. UMSL is taking the lead on programs to improve mid-career faculty development. There is a possibility that some funding may be available for these types of programs.
- Promotion and Tenure: There was some discussion about a proposed change to CRR 320.35 (Policy and Procedures for Promotion and Tenure) having to do with situations in which faculty go up early for tenure. Feedback from UMSL and other campuses was not strongly in favor of changing the current policy, which allows faculty to go up early to try again in subsequent years. The policy has not been changed.
- Human Resources Update: Human Resources developed a new policy to allow individuals time off to donate organs or bone marrow.
- Conflict of Interest/Commitment: After feedback from IFC representatives, UM System acknowledged that the reporting process regarding conflict of interest has been very time-consuming. UM System will work on streamlining parts of the process.

#### **Other business:**

Dr. Hall stated that there will be a Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report next month. She reminded the senators that last Spring the Senate tried a new method of reviewing the curriculum proposals. Instead of reporting **every** program proposal at the Senate meeting, it was agreed that a program proposal list with **minor** program changes would be distributed to the Senate for review prior to the meeting. If Senate members wish to discuss any of the program proposals in more detail in the meeting, they will be required to inform the Senate Office to include those specific proposals on the Senate agenda. If the Senate Office is not notified of any specific proposals (that have minor program changes) to be presented at the Senate meeting, the program proposal list will be voted on in its entirety at the Senate meeting. The program proposals that contain **major** changes will continue to be presented at the Senate meeting. Dr. Hall asked the Senate if they would like to continue this new way of reviewing the curriculum proposals. All were in agreement.

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)