

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

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

**Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Jon McGinnis):**

- Dr. McGinnis reminded the Senate that open enrollment for benefits begins Oct. 25 and ends on Nov. 5. He encouraged the attendees to complete their enrollment forms.

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

- As a COVID-19 update, Chancellor Sobolik reported that there are seven active student cases and two active staff cases.
- Chancellor Sobolik reported on UMSL's strong working relationship with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). Under a new Educational Partnership Agreement (EPA), UMSL faculty and staff will work collaboratively with NGA professionals to develop academic courses and programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that will provide students the knowledge and skills needed for careers in geospatial intelligence. UMSL also has a Collaborative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the NGA. Chancellor Sobolik stated that UMSL is the only institution in the nation that has both the EPA and the CRADA with the NGA. She explained that UMSL's Geospatial Collaborative is located in the T-Rex building and is headed by director, Will Werner. If faculty would like to get involved with UMSL's Geospatial Collaborative or would like more information, they should contact Will Werner.
- Chancellor Sobolik updated the Faculty Senate about the progress of the St. Louis Anchor Action Network. The network is bringing together institutions, businesses, community leaders, and other stakeholders to address racial, economic, and spatial inequities in the St. Louis region through focused efforts to increase employment, income, health, and wealth building. Chancellor Sobolik explained that these St. Louis businesses are agreeing to increase the amount of hiring and contracting that they do within the St. Louis region, but especially in the most underserved and economically deprived areas of St. Louis. Collectively, they plan to increase the amount of hiring and contracting annually by 10% in order to make a profound impact on the St. Louis region. UMSL and Edward Jones are providing leadership and staffing for the network. Chancellor Sobolik stated that Stefani Weeden-Smith has been hired to serve as the inaugural director of the St. Louis Anchor Action Network. She began her new position on September 20, and she will work out of UMSL's Office of Research and Economic and Community Development.

**Enrollment Strategy (Mr. Reggie Hill):**

Mr. Reggie Hill, the new Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Enrollment, joined UMSL on July 1. As UMSL's chief enrollment officer, he will be leading the Office of Admissions and the Office of the Registrar while overseeing the implementation of UMSL's first-ever strategic

enrollment plan to ensure the university's long-term sustainability through enrollment and retention growth. He explained the following enrollment objectives:

- Achieve projected enrollment goals through adaptable and effective recruitment strategies. We will achieve our objectives by building a timeless foundation—then creating an environment for evolving and adaptable tactics.
- Enhance the quality of the student body as measured by increasing economic diversity, ethnic and cultural diversity, and academic preparation.
- Develop a data-driven business process to enhance customer relationships, efficiency, and productivity.
- Develop an adaptive, efficient, and effective enrollment management team by emphasizing dialogue, collaboration, compassion, professional development, and assessment.

Mr. Hill addressed the questions of the Senate.

### **Research – Spring Panel Report (Dr. Billy Dunaway):**

Dr. Dunaway explained that the Research-Spring Panel has brought the following award proposal to the Senate for approval. He explained that this new proposed Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research and Creativity would be given to a **collaborative** research team. This award would be in addition to the current award which recognizes an **individual** for research and creativity. The Senate discussed the following proposal:

**Purpose:** The purpose of this annual award is to honor a team of full-time faculty members who have demonstrated superior achievement in a program of collaborative research and creativity.

**Award Presentation:** The award is presented each fall at the Chancellor's State of the University Address.

**Honorarium:** \$1,000 (for the team)

**Nomination Procedure:** Nominations may be submitted by any UMSL faculty member or group of faculty. The team must include at least two members of the UMSL faculty but may also include members outside UMSL. Teams which have received a previous Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Collaborative Research and Creativity, or which include members that hold a Curators' Professorship, will not be eligible for this award. Nomination packets should include a one- to two-page cover letter summarizing the team's research and/or creative accomplishments, a team curriculum vita, and up to 5 reference letters. Your cover letter should also include a synopsis of the team's credentials.

**The Faculty Senate voted unanimously in favor of this proposal.** It will be forwarded to the Provost to be posted on the Academic Affairs website with the other faculty award criteria. Nominations will be accepted in March of 2022.

### **Intercampus Faculty Cabinet (IFC) Report (Dr. Sanjiv Bhatia):**

Dr. Bhatia reported that the IFC met on Oct. 6 and discussed the following topics:

- The IFC received an update from the shared governance task force. Dr. Stuerke is leading this task force. They are planning to prepare a white paper on their recommendations.
- IFC members met with President Choi and discussed the following issues:
  - Mask mandate – each of the campuses will have to abide by their local mandates.
  - Emails and accounts for retirees – discussions will continue
  - Morale

- The IFC members met with the students on the Intercampus Student Council. They discussed the use of masks and the students' opinions on wearing masks. Most of the students stated that they would rather wear masks and be able to attend classes in person rather than not wearing them and having all of their classes online.

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

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

- Deletion of the graduate certificate in Institutional Research
- Deletion of the graduate certificate in Community College Leadership
- Change to the RN to BSN program requirements
- Change to the B.A. in International Relations
- Change to the B.A. in Political Science
- Change to the minor in Urban Politics
- Change to the B.S. in Psychology

**The Faculty Senate approved all of the above uncomplicated curriculum proposals.**

Mr. Allison presented the following academic calendars:

- Amendment to the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar (to add the recent Juneteenth holiday)
- Amendment to the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar. The change will add the Juneteenth holiday. Mr. Allison pointed out that the 2022-23 academic calendar will be the first to include a two-day Fall Break on Oct. 20 & 21. This will be in addition to the Thanksgiving Break.
- Proposal of the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

**The Faculty Senate approved all of the above academic calendars.**

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

- Change to general requirements for the B.S. in Cybersecurity
- Change to the Computer Science emphasis area for the B.S. in Cybersecurity
- Change to the Information Systems and Technology emphasis area for the B.S. in Cybersecurity
- Addition of the Nonprofit emphasis area for the B.S. in Public Policy Administration
- Change to Minor in American Politics
- Change to the minor in International and Comparative Politics
- Change to the minor in Public and Nonprofit Administration

**The Faculty Senate approved all of the above proposals.**

Dr. McGinnis asked if there was any other business. Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Pickard  
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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