

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University Assembly and Faculty Senate
September 10, 2013 - 3 p.m.
202 JCPenney**

The meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by the Senate Chair, Dr. Chris Spilling. Dr. Spilling asked for approval of the minutes from the meeting on April 23, 2013. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson, Dr. Chris Spilling:

Chair Spilling reported information about the following items:

- Plus One: Over the past few years, the Faculty Senate has been following the progress of the domestic partner initiative. This past summer, the Board of Curators approved a “Plus One” benefit. Dr. Spilling was pleased to report the positive result that appeared in a June 21 letter from UM System President Wolfe which announced:

“In order to remain competitive in our recruitment and retention of high quality faculty and staff, the board added sponsored adult dependents as an option in our benefits package. This allows our faculty and staff to cover another adult, who meets certain criteria, to their plan.”

- NCTQ – National Council on Teacher Quality:
Dr. Spilling updated the University Assembly on the status of NCTQ. He reminded the attendees of a discussion the Senate had last year about NCTQ and their request for syllabi. Dr. Spilling explained that in July, President Wolfe sent an e-mail informing all four campuses of the following outcome which he summarized to the University Assembly:

“I am pleased to report that the University of Missouri recently won an important lawsuit protecting the intellectual property rights and creative works of our faculty.

As you may recall, some time ago the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) submitted a Sunshine Law request for syllabi from faculty members in Colleges of Education (and in areas of related coursework) on our four campuses. We have long taken the position that syllabi are the intellectual property of the faculty members who develop them. Therefore, our custodian of records denied the request stating that the syllabi were protected from disclosure based on federal copyright law.

The NCTQ threatened to sue the university under the Sunshine Law. In view of the implications for faculty intellectual property rights, we met with faculty and administrators on each campus to gather their perspective on whether the university should meet NCTQ’s demand.

Based on your feedback from these meetings, we maintained the denial of NCTQ's request which led to the NCTQ's lawsuit alleging a violation of the Sunshine Law. Last week, the Circuit Court of Boone County agreed with us, holding that the syllabi are the intellectual property of our faculty and, therefore, are not subject to involuntary disclosure under the Sunshine Act.

As members of our faculty, we recognize that your intellectual contributions are essential in carrying out our mission of teaching, research, service and economic development. Your contributions, both inside and outside the classroom, advance the education of more than 75,000 students on our four campuses, and it was my privilege to devote UM System resources to protect those contributions. As system president, I believe I speak for many when I say how grateful I am for your continued service and pursuit of excellence on behalf of the University of Missouri."

➤ Board of Curators:

Dr. Spilling reported that the Board of Curators will be meeting this week on Thursday and Friday in Columbia. The outcome of the campus strategic plans will be discussed. Dr. Spilling will attend the meeting. The next Board of Curators meeting will be held at UMSL in November.

➤ IFC:

Dr. Spilling stated that the Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) representatives will be attending a retreat on Sept. 23-24. The current IFC representatives are: Susan Brownell, Steve Moehrle, and Chris Spilling.

➤ Committee Chairs:

Dr. Spilling reported that committee chairs have now been elected for all 22 Senate/Assembly committees. Committees are scheduling meetings and agenda items are being discussed. He provided a list of committee chairs and thanked those faculty members who were willing to serve as chairs.

Report of the Chancellor, Dr. Tom George:

Chancellor George reported on the following items:

➤ Missouri 100 Event:

Chancellor George stated that he recently attended a Missouri 100 event in Columbia, MO. He explained that the members of the Missouri 100 advise and assist the UM System President in promoting the critical role of the UM System in the state's future and its reputation around the world. Its members are advocates for public policies and programs that promote the University's goals. Chancellor George reported that it was a very positive meeting and he had many optimistic discussions at the event.

➤ International Business Program:

Dr. George stated that UMSL's International Business Program is ranked 14th nationally, according to US News & World Report. It is the 11th consecutive year in the publication's top 20.

➤ Enrollment:

Total enrollment is expected to be just under 17,000 students. Student credit hours are up. For the first time ever, all on-campus student housing is full and there is a waiting list. The average ACT score is 24 and the overall GPA is 3.33. The student body represents 32% total minorities, 20% African American, and more than 100 countries are represented.

➤ Strategic planning:

Dr. George reported that UMSL will receive \$2.165 million in recurring funds as a result of strategic planning. The amount of \$1.565 million will be used for scholarships; \$500,000 will be used for faculty hires; and \$100,000 will be used for degree completion.

➤ Veto of House Bill 253:

Chancellor George provided background information about House Bill 253. He explained that the significance of the tax cuts proposed in House Bill 253 would likely lead to dire cuts in educational funding. Chancellor George spoke at a recent press conference in support of the governor's veto of the bill. The state legislators will conduct a special session this week to vote on the veto.

Report of the Staff Association, Ms. Meg Naes:

Ms. Naes reported that the Staff Association distributed a survey to staff members in June. Staff members were asked to complete a survey about the purpose of the Staff Association and how they could better serve them.

The Staff Association received about 350 survey responses, improving the results from the last survey completed in 2010. The overwhelming theme in the survey results indicated the need for a greater amount of communication on campus.

In response to survey results, Ms. Naes reported that the Staff Association's goal this year will be to improve communication. At the Staff Council Officer's orientation session in July, council positions were reviewed, as well as their duties and responsibilities. They also discussed the survey results and established goals for better campus communication.

To improve campus communication, the monthly staff newsletter, *The Link*, has been updated and re-formatted. Also, Ms. Naes reported that the Fall Staff Association meeting will be held at noon in 202 JCPenney tomorrow. Chancellor George will update the staff. Provost Cope will inform the staff about the strategic plan. Patricia Zahn will talk about UMSL's Month of Giving in October.

The Intercampus Staff Advisory Council (ISC) will meet in two weeks in Columbia with President Wolfe. Ms. Naes will report on the results of the ISC meeting in November.

Report of the Student Government Association, Mr. Bennett Felton:

Mr. Felton began the report by explaining the organizational structure of the Student Government Association as follows:

SGA Executives:

President – Bennett Felton
Vice President – Gustavo Perez
Comptroller – Daniel Armistead

SGA Executive Committee:

Chair – Dan Kujawa
Vice Chair – Cameron Roark
Secretary – Deja Patrick
Sergeant-At-Arms – Geddy Trebus
Parliamentarian – Courtney Hayes

SGA Senators:

Garrett Adams
Tyler Brockman
Sal Cafazza
Juliana Klein
Krista Liebrum
Cameron Nunn
David Serati
Michael Weaver

Mr. Felton also stated that the SGA has been working on the selection of a new student curator. He explained that the student curator position switches from campus to campus every two years. This year the student curator will be selected from UMSL. He explained the process and timeline as follows:

Sept. 9	Open Forum with student Body President
Sept. 13	Deadline for Applications and Supporting Documents
Sept. 23-27	UMSL Campus Interviews (1 st Round, All Candidates)
Oct. 7-11	ISC/ASUM Selection Committee Interviews (2 nd Round, Top 6 Candidates)
Nov. 21-22	Board of Curators Meeting at UMSL (3 rd Round, Top 3 Candidates)
Dec. 2-6	Submission of names to Missouri Governor's Office

As an update, Mr. Bennett also reported that the Wellness and Recreation Center's groundbreaking is expected to occur the week of December 2.

Other Business:

Dr. Joe Martinich explained to the University Assembly that he is serving on a task force to study the future of staff and faculty benefits. He reported that a few months ago, the UM System President and the Board of Curators created this task force. It consists of ten people representing all of the campuses in the system. The members have experience in the health care industry and bring expertise to the table. The task force began meeting in August and meets every two to three weeks.

Dr. Martinich commented that the first two days of meetings consisted of presentations from many consultants and experts. The members of the task force were briefed on information in terms of what's happening in the market, how pensions are changing, and a significant focus on health care benefits.

Dr. Martinich remarked that there have been dramatic changes in business with respect to health benefits recently. For example, some large companies are giving employees a fixed amount of money and the employee is responsible for buying the type of coverage they need from a health insurance exchange.

Dr. Martinich commented that existing employees should not expect major changes to their coverage. He assured the Assembly that no decisions have been made yet. President Wolfe has asked the task force to make proposals by March 1. President Wolfe also wants the task force to make recommendations that can be done quickly – in the next few years. Dr. Martinich said that the task force has many more meetings and he will provide regular updates.

There being no other business, the University Assembly meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Faculty Senate Meeting

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 3:35 by Senate Chair, Dr. Chris Spilling.

Dr. Spilling did not have any additional comments for the Chair's Report.

Dr. George did not have additional information for the Chancellor's report.

Committee on Committees Report, Dr. Alice Hall:

Dr. Hall presented the following nominations from the Committee on Committees:

- **Research – Spring Panel:**
One vacancy for Natural Sciences/Math: Stephen Holmes (Chemistry)
- **Research Policy Committee:**
Optometry vacancy: Ray Myers will replace Carl Bassi for 1 year
- **Appointments, Tenure, & Promotion Committee:**
Two changes:
 - 1.) New Nursing Representative: Kathryn Records
 - 2.) Natural Sciences/Math replacement: George Gokel will replace Uday Chakraborty for 1 year

The members of the Faculty Senate approved all of the nominations.

Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report, Mr. Michael Allison:

Mr. Allison briefed the Senate on the upcoming changes to the curriculum and instruction procedures. He explained that the new curriculum and instruction software called “CourseLeaf” is now in place and will be used to process course and program proposals this Fall.

Mr. Allison told the Assembly that the new software is web-based and will connect the Bulletin to the Registrar’s Course list. Mr. Allison also pointed out that with this new system, faculty and staff can track the progress of a proposal as it goes through the workflow.

Mr. Allison demonstrated how the new software works and explained the workflow of the curriculum proposals. He answered the senator’s questions and advised them to attend training sessions that will be conducted by Ms. Betsy Sampson in Academic Affairs. He explained that the information for entering a course or program proposal could be found on the Senate website on the Curriculum and Instruction page with the following instructions:

To create/update/change a **course** proposal, the Course Inventory Management software at the following link should be used: <http://nextbulletin.umsl.edu/courseadmin/>

To create/update/change a **program** proposal, the Program Management software at the following link should be used: <http://nextbulletin.umsl.edu/programadmin/>

Executive Session:

The Senate met in Executive Session to consider candidates nominated to receive honorary degrees.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Martinich
Assembly/Senate Secretary

(Minutes written by Loyola Harvey, Faculty Senate Office)