

Intercampus Faculty Council Report for March 17, 2006

Presented by Teresa Thiel

- There was a continuation of the discussion that began two months ago concerning policies for review of administrators. Review of administrators is handled somewhat differently on each campus and appears to be an ever evolving process on all the campuses. Paul Speck suggested that the review of administrators is primarily the job of the higher administration, though faculty can and should play a role. He added that administrator evaluations should be conducted as part of (and never apart from) larger administrative unit or program evaluations. The initiative for the development of policies and procedures for the review of administrators should come from the Chancellor. The IFC representatives agreed that unless the Chancellor considers and values the evaluations of administrators by the faculty, it may not be perceived by faculty as a valuable use of their time to provide these evaluations.
- John Gardner, Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the System office, discussed a new structure for the four Technology Transfer offices. Technology Transfer (which on this campus is part of the Office of Research) will report directly to the Vice President for Research and Economic Development via an Intellectual Property Core that will provide centralized services on policy, legal, fiscal, marketing, and IT support. He also discussed the possible formation of an independent foundation that would be involved in fundraising to support new ideas from all the campuses for technology transfer.
- The IFC has completed its report and recommendations concerning non-tenure track faculty. This report and its recommendations will be presented in more detail to the Senate by Paul Speck at a future meeting.
- President Floyd reported that the sale and distribution of MOHELA assets is still moving slowly through the legislature with some differences in opinion on how the funds should be allocated. The Governor favors using it for capital expenditures while the House favors more of the money going to scholarships. The Senate has not yet made a recommendation.
- House Bill 1266 is an amendment to the Missouri Science Education Act, which would affect public elementary and secondary school science teachers for sixth through twelfth grade. Although the document states that instruction in the sciences must use the best practices in science to provide accurate scientific information, the criteria provided in the bill for these practices do not conform to the accepted scientific methods. While the bill does not use either the terms “evolution” or “creationism” it seems clear that the intent of the bill is to change the way in which teachers teach the “theory or hypothesis of biological origins”. One concern is that the language of the bill is so complicated and full of virtually meaningless jargon that none of the legislators will actually understand what it means.
- In its campus report, the representative from UMKC stated that the campus was very pleased by a recent action by their new Chancellor, Guy Bailey. He has mandated that the entire 2% increase in the UMKC budget will be allocated to academic units and that the entire \$4 million shortfall will be absorbed by administrative units and not by academic units.