

FACULTY SENATE and UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY
of the University of Missouri-St. Louis

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON
February 19, 2008

- UM President Gary Forsee will be on the UMSL campus Sunday, 2/24 and Monday, 2/25. On Sunday he will meet with the Steering Committee, the IFC representatives, and some of the Senate and Assembly committee chairs for an informal discussion of UM issues from the perspective of our campus. We have been allotted an hour for this meeting, so we won't be able to get all of the issues on the table, but I am pleased that we have been given the opportunity to have this direct contact with the president. President Forsee will meet with legislators and other government officials on Sunday after meeting with the faculty group. On Monday he will meet with student and staff groups. There will also be a reception to meet and greet the new president.
- The campus reaccreditation team is working diligently on a second draft of the self-study document. Several faculty, staff, and students are involved in that effort. Today, the team held its first of three "Town Hall" meetings for the campus to talk about the reaccreditation process. The second is tomorrow, (2/20) 2:00 p.m. in Century Room C, and the third is Thursday, (2/21) 4:30 pm in the Marillac Auditorium. Everyone is invited to ask questions and offer suggestions to representatives of the reaccreditation team.
- The Senate and Assembly have several representatives on the campus Strategic Planning committee. In addition to me, there is Karen Pierre, Terry Jones, Jean Bachman, Terry Thiel, Joe Martinich, Barb Kachur, as well as the deans (who are ex officio member of the Assembly). Dean Julie Sebastian is leading a subcommittee which is crafting revised vision and mission statements. The planning committee of the whole considered broad strategic issues and has now broken into subgroups to evaluate goals from the existing action plan and delete, revise, and add to come up with a new list of goals yet to achieve.
- Reminder: The first meeting of the 2008-2009 Senate will be April 8. At that meeting we will elect a new Chair, Secretary, and Committee on Committees. I encourage those of you who will be continuing on next year's Senate to consider the leadership role you plan to take and make that known. Having nominations for Senate chair announced at the March meeting would be most desirable.
- The Intercampus Faculty Council will be discussing policies dealing with academic misconduct in our classrooms. There is currently inconsistency across the four campuses. On our campus the administration contends that faculty can only fail a cheater or plagiarizer for the element of the course on which the student was caught cheating. System legal counsel has advised that doing more could get us into legal trouble. At UMC, faculty are allowed (but not required) to give a failing grade for the course. This issue was raised by one of our colleagues at UMKC, where the campus policy is like ours – academic policy being driven by legal advice. The IFC meets again on March 21st; if you have an opinion on this matter that you would like to convey to the IFC representatives, please communicate with Terry Thiel, Carole Murphy, or me before 3/21/08.