

IFC Meeting Wednesday February 13, 2008
Report to the UMSL Faculty Senate
February 19, 2008
Dr. Carole Murphy

1. Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism and Grading

To quote Steven Graham, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, “the issue of how to address academic dishonesty is a complicated one involving the rights of the students, the rights of the faculty, and the rulings from the courts. The UM Collected Rules and Regulations are based on prevailing law, including the landmark case the University of Missouri argued in the US Supreme Court that made a clear distinction between faculty evaluations and discipline.

Most important, one of the key issues at stake is protecting the concept of ‘faculty evaluations’ and ‘professional judgment’ in an array of areas such as admissions, promotion and tenure decision, graduation requirements, and a host of other issues where the court has agreed not to intervene in the faculty members’ assessments.”

Dr. Graham has talked to General Counsel Steve Owens at length on this issue and says Owens is in 100% philosophical agreement with the faculty, but feels we are bound by the prevailing law. Owens will join the next IFC meeting to discuss this issue in detail.

All syllabi should have a statement about academic dishonesty. As soon as the IFC has talked with the General Counsel, we will share his recommendation for the statement you should use.

2. Faculty Leave Policy

The new Faculty Leave Policy has now been approved by the Missouri Board of Curators. The policy can be found in the Collected Rules and Regulations at the following link:

<http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/gc/rules/personnel/340/070.shtml>

The IFC worked closely with the UM administration on the revision and it was reviewed through the faculty governance organizations on each of the four campuses.

The new policy addresses issues related to three types of professional leave and codify policies on types of personal leave (email from Frank Schmidt, UMC)

3. SB 389

This bill states that certain bio information on faculty teaching classes in the UM System be posted. This information does not include faculty evaluations. Either the department chairs or HR is responsible for putting this information on line. The information is

currently being placed on line. When it is verified that it is working correctly the faculty will be informed. There is a box where faculty members can place additional information but it will not allow you to use hot links for security reasons.

Information is tied to the course schedules so if GTAs are being used their information will need to be updated as necessary.

4. Communication Survey

A Communication Survey (formerly called the English Language Proficiency Survey) is presently going out to students to respond to classes they took in fall of 2007. This information is reported to the Board of Curators. Data shows that grades do not correlate to whether a student could understand an instructor. At UMKC there was a 50% decrease of student complaints by reducing the test requirement by 2 points out of 60. UMKC also has an accent modification (reduction) program. This survey also includes GTAs in the evaluations. The survey does not identify individual faculty members, but rather areas in which they teach

5. HB 219 Senate Appropriations

More information will be forth coming on senate appropriations. The governor has recommended a 4.2% increase (\$430 million) for higher education; however, he has over committed the budget. It is possible that higher education may be a target this year and have a short fall of funding.

Faculty compensation is a major issue. The University is losing faculty because of resources. It's not only a salary issue but the perceived feeling of the faculty that they cannot do their job without additional resources such as lab equipment. Salary compacting is also being discussed.

Formula funding is being worked on but we have a problem in that the four campuses do not work together as well as other institutions such as the Community Colleges. We need to reach a consensus on a funding formula among the four campuses. IFC members wanted to be sure that the formula includes how the nature of the discipline affects the cost of a program. The matrix will account for the nature and the level of programs. Dr. Lamb is working hard on getting a consensus. We can no longer rely on headcount to create a rational, calculated model.

6. Government Relations

Erin Elliott from the Government Relations Office shared a publication that you might be interested in reviewing. It is called the "Impact on the State of Missouri" data sheet and can be found at www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/gr/. This data sheet is important because it gives legislators a snapshot of how we impact their individual districts. Re-educating the legislature is a constant battle because of term limits. The sheets also go to the whips to brief them on the UM System (40 for the House, 6 for the Senate).