

FACULTY SENATE & UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

Report of the Chairperson
November 13, 2007

Since our last meeting, I have had several occasions to speak on behalf of the Senate and Assembly:

- October 18 – Human Resources Interdepartmental Partnership

A copy of the authorization form that potential new hires will be asked to sign for criminal background checks was distributed. The form is problematic because it implies that the university will also be looking at driving records and possibly even a credit check. I brought this to the attention of Peter Heithaus, UMSL Director of Human Resources and Provost Cope via email and raised the issue with Ken Hutchinson, VP for Human Resources at the last IFC meeting. Though the intent is only to look for felonies in regard to faculty, the generic form used for all employees could dissuade potential faculty candidates from continuing in our pool. I have not heard that the form has been changed yet.

- October 24 – Fall Faculty Meeting

Few faculty attended this meeting, which was unfortunate given the interesting presentation by this year's winner of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research, Joyce Mushaben, and the opportunity to discuss a variety of topics with the Provost and Chancellor.

- October 29 – Student Senator's Banquet

- November 9 – Student Government Association meeting

I was pleased to have the opportunity to talk briefly about shared governance with our student representatives to the Assembly on October 29 at their banquet and to the Student Government Association at their regular meeting on November 9. Our students are taking their seriously their opportunities to serve their fellow students and the wider campus community and I commend them for their participation and diligence.

- October 31 – Meeting and dinner with Dr. Mary Breslin, our liaison to the Higher Learning Commission and Several meetings of the Accreditation Steering Committee

Work on the self-study report for HLC reaccreditation is continuing. A draft should be posted on-line for review by the campus community very soon (if it isn't already there). Your critique of content will be appreciated and comments should be addressed to Judith Walker de Felix in the Academic Affairs Office.

- November 8 – Legislative Forum to announce "Preparing to Care" funding initiative

Interim President Lamb, VP Steve Knorr, and several other members of the university's governmental relations office sponsored an informational session for the local legislators last week. Several, though not all, of our elected representatives came to campus to learn about the "Preparing to Care" initiative to increase the graduation of health care professionals from across the state. Dean Julie Sebastian and Dean Larry Davis were given opportunities to explain what the Colleges of Nursing and Optometry can do to fill these needs. President Lamb also tried to explain the Curator's plan to raise faculty salaries through an initiative to raise funds internally if the state legislature will provide matching funds.