

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the  
University of Missouri-St. Louis  
University Assembly and Faculty Senate  
February 20, 2024 – 3:00 p.m.  
MSC Century Room A & Zoom meeting.**

Senate Chair Sanjiv Bhatia called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Dr. Bhatia welcomed everyone. He asked for approval of the minutes from the Assembly meeting on Nov. 14, 2023. The minutes were approved as written.

**Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Sanjiv Bhatia):**

- Dr. Bhatia reported that Senate Departmental elections have been completed and At-Large Representatives will be completed this week.
- Dr. Bhatia reported that the administrator evaluation surveys will be distributed in early March. He asked that faculty and staff complete the surveys. He reminded them that all responses are anonymous.
- The Budget and Planning Committee is scheduled to meet on March 14 by Zoom. Those interested in attending can contact the Senate Office for the Zoom link.
- Dr. Bhatia invited everyone to attend the Homecoming Chili Feed on Thursday, Feb. 22 from 11:30 – 1:30 in the MSC Century Rooms.
- The deadline for submitting nominations for the Chancellor's Awards for Excellence is Mar 1, 2024. Dr. Bhatia encouraged everyone to consider submitting a nomination.

**Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Kristin Sobolik):**

- The recipients of the UMSL Hero Award for the month of February were announced. The recipients are Austin Culbertson, Megan Miller, and Henry Thomas. Dr Sobolik reminded the attendees to continue sending nominations.
- Chancellor Sobolik announced a new award – the Chancellors Medal. The inaugural Chancellor's Medal has been awarded to Lori Flanagan.
- Chancellor Sobolik reminded the attendees that Homecoming week is Feb. 19-Feb. 29.
- Chancellor Sobolik reminded the attendees that the Chili Feed is on Thursday, February 22 from 11:30-1:30 and to check out other Homecoming events such as pack the stands and the homecoming dance.
- Chancellor Sobolik announced that at the previous Board of Curators meeting, UMSL was approved to remain test optional for another year and the 5-year financial plan was approved.
- State of the State Address – the Governor has put another 20 million dollars toward the Transform UMSL plan.

**Report of the Staff Association (Ms. Britne Bacca-Haupt):**

Ms. Bacca-Haupt reported on the following topics:

- An All-Staff meeting was held on Feb. 8, 2024.
- There will be open voting on Staff Association Bylaws during the March 21 meeting.
- The Staff Association is hosting a Donation Collaboration - most likely in May, more info to come.
- The Staff Association has a newly formed Events Committee and is planning to host a Staff Appreciation Day in the Spring.

**Report of the Student Government Association (Alexander Orywall):**

Mr. Orywall reported that the Student Government Association (SGA) is receiving the following suggestions from students:

- Students believe that the Provincial House Dining Hall should not be closed if Oak Hall is being used, due to the following reasons:
  - Only dining hall/food option on south campus.
  - Only option that offers food past 5pm and if the MSC happens to close.
- Students would like to advocate for the creation of Sport Clubs and a Staff Member to oversee them.

**UMSL Strategic Plan (Provost Steve Berberich):**

- Provost Berberich announced that the Strategic plan for 2023-2028 was approved at the Board of Curators' meeting.
- Provost Berberich thanked the individuals who served in committees to help establish goals regarding the strategic plan, along with recognizing the Senate and their help.

Dr. Bhatia asked if there was any other business for the University Assembly. Hearing none, Dr. Bhatia adjourned the University Assembly meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Stuerke  
Senate/Assembly Secretary

(Minutes written by Allison Belew, Faculty Senate/University Assembly Office)