

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Faculty Senate
December 12, 2023
MSC Century Room A**

Senate Chair Sanjiv Bhatia called the Faculty Senate meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Bhatia asked for approval of the Senate minutes from the meeting on November 14, 2023. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Sanjiv Bhatia):

- Dr. Bhatia reported that the Faculty Senate hosted a lunch for the Board of Curators on November 16. Five students did an excellent job of presenting their research during the lunch event.
- Dr. Bhatia reminded the attendees that grades are due on Dec. 19 by 5:00 p.m.
- Dr. Bhatia reminded the attendees that commencement is Dec. 16
- Dr. Bhatia reminded the attendees that Nominations for Research, Teaching and Service award are due March 1, 2024
- Dr. Bhatia announced that the Chili Feed is Feb. 22 11:30-1:30
 - Start sending recipes from each college to Allison Belew.

Report of the Chancellor (Chancellor Kristin Sobolik):

- Chancellor Sobolik invited everyone to attend the commencement ceremonies on Dec. 16. Commencement ceremonies will be held on Saturday as follows:
 - 9:00 a.m. – College of Business Administration, College of Nursing
 - 1:30 p.m. – College of Arts and Sciences
 - 6:00 p.m. – College of Education, UMSL/WU Joint Engineering Program and School of Social Work
- Members of the UM Board of Curators gathered for their final quarterly meeting of the year last month at UMSL.
- CUMU (Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities)
 - CUMU supports and advocates for urban and metropolitan universities and their communities on educational access and opportunity and sustained workforce development and economic growth.
 - Chancellor Sobolik has been elected Chair 2023-2025
- 2018-2023 Student Success Outcomes
 - Combined 6-year graduation rate increased from 62% to 67%
 - Pell grant eligible graduation rate increased from 59 to 65%
- The NCAA named former UMSL volleyball standout Charlotte Richards as one of nine finalists for its Woman of the Year Award.
- Chancellor Sobolik congratulated the UMSL Women's Volleyball team on their successful season as the NCAA Division II Midwest Region champions, bound for national quarterfinals.

- UMSL had the privilege of hosting the NCAA Division II tournament.
- UMSL ranked on Military Times 'Best for Vets: Colleges' list for 9th consecutive year.
- UMSL has earned the HEED Award – 2023 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award for the seventh time.
 - UMSL is one of 109 Universities across the nation, and the only University in Missouri to be recognized this year.
- UMSL has been designated as an All-Steinway School, which means that all UMSL's pianos, including those used by students, are from Steinway & Sons. This designation demonstrates a full commitment to excellence by providing UMSL students and faculty with the best instruments possible for the study of music.

Provost Steve Berberich

- NTT Teaching Releases for 2024-2025
 - Trey Kidd – Biology
 - Lynda McDowell – Chemistry and Biochemistry
 - Jennifer Sicilliani– Psychological Sciences
- Faculty Sabbaticals for 2024-2025
 - Sharlee Climer – Computer Science
 - Aimee Dunlap – Biology
 - Kailash Joshi – Information Systems
 - Alina Slapac – Educator Preparation and Leadership
 - Ann Steffan – Psychological Sciences
 - Adriano Udani – Political Science

Chris Sullivan – Test Optional Discussion

- Chris Sullivan was present in the capacity as the Chairperson for the Recruitment, Admissions, Retention and Student Financial Aid Committee.
- During the November meeting of RARSFA, Reggie Hill presented an overview of the history of the policy and impact on the objectives behind test-optional and there were several points that came up, including the fact that it is going to the Board of Curators.
- Key points
 - Students can opt in or opt out of standardized testing (ACT, SAT)
 - This does not show any difference in terms of performance. Admission decisions rely more on the application vs leaning more towards scores.
 - Presents an equity issue – in terms of access to populations that have been marginalized in the past.
 - All voting members that were present were in support.
- *The Faculty Senate voted unanimously in favor of extending the test optional by 1 year.*

Committee on Committees Report (Dr. Amber Candela)

- Dr. Candela presented the following nominations as replacements for committee members:
 - IT Committee -- Vivek Singh is willing to serve as the College of Business Administration replacement for Shaji Khan for the last year of his term.
 - *The Faculty Senate unanimously approved the nomination.*

Intercampus Faculty Cabinet (IFC) Report (Dr. Jon McGinnis):

Dr. McGinnis reported that the IFC met on Dec. 4 by Zoom with the following agenda topics:

- The IFC met with President Choi and discussed:
 - Upcoming legislative bills that are of interest to the UM System
- IFC Consensus revenue is 0.2% (flat)
 - The UM system will likely not see an increase in its core budget.
- Shared Governance Report
 - The report has been presented to the IFC members who are expected to provide feedback. Once IFC members submit written feedback, the task force will complete the Executive Summary and send the report to the various faculty senates and councils.
 - The report will hopefully be made public next year.

Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report (Mr. Michael Allison):

- Mr. Allison presented the changes to the following curriculum proposals.
 - Change to Honors College Certificate, Four Year Program.
 - Change to the accelerated M.A. program in Criminology and Criminal Justice.
 - Change to the Social Science emphasis area of the B.S. in Data Science and Analysis.
 - Change to the Executive Leadership emphasis area of the B.A. in Organizational Leadership.
 - Change to the B.A. in Sociology.
 - Change to the B.S. in Sociology.
 - Change to the M.S. in Information Systems and Technology.
 - Change to the graduate certificate in Logistics and Supply Chain Management.
 - Change to the graduate regulations of the M.Ed. in Counseling
 - Deletion of the B.S./M.S. dual degree program in Biology.
 - Deletion of the B.S. in Media Studies.
 - Deletion of the minor in Media Studies.
 - Deletion of the Master of Music Education.
- *The Faculty Senate voted unanimously in favor of the changes to the uncomplicated curriculum proposals.*
- Mr. Allison presented the changes to the following curriculum proposals.
 - Change to the Academic Renewal Policy
 - Change to the minor in Anthropology.

- Change to B.A. in Biology
- Change to the B.S. in Biology
- Change to the minor in Gender Studies
- Addition of the graduate certificate in STEM Teaching
- *The Faculty Senate approved all the curriculum proposals.*

Dr. Bhatia asked if there was any other business. Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Stuerke
Senate/Assembly Secretary

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