Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
April 1, 1993

Attendance
Council Chair Hunvald called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. in room S110 of the Memorial Union. Members present included: John Bauer, Brooke Cameron, Irv Cockriel, Jay Dix, Jean Hamilton, Richard Hardy, Hildegarde Heymann, Edward H. Hunvald, Brent D. Jones, Eugene Lane, Steve Matthews, John Miles, Loren A. Nikolai, Patricia Plummer, Michael Prewitt, Dennis Sentilles, Don Sievert, Robert Weems, Betty Winfield, Don York, Warren Zahler, Dean Schmidt (Library), Ray Schroeder (Retirees). Lonnie Echternacht was an alternate for Robert Birkenholz and Maurice Leatherbury was an alternate for Mary Ellen Sievert. Absent were: Dale Blevins, Richard Hoft, Mark Ryan, Kit Salter, Susan Taylor, Dana Weaver, and Mable Grimes (Black Faculty & Staff Organization).

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the Faculty Council meeting of March 11, 1993 were approved.

Report of Officers
The Administrative Review Committee has met and Professor Gordon Kimber has been elected to Chair that committee.

The Executive Committee of Faculty Council is working on committee assignments for the coming year. Faculty Council will meet again on May 5, 1993, at 3:40 p.m. in room S110 of the Memorial Union.

Action Items
Substitute Resolution on Diversity. There was a draft Resolution on Diversity presented at the last Faculty Council meeting. Since that time it was recalled that Faculty Council passed a Resolution on Diversity on June 25, 1992. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the following resolution.

Resolution on Diversity
“In light of recent actions concerning admissions, enrollment and tuition, the MU Faculty Council on University Policy reaffirms the resolution on diversity approved by Council on June 25, 1992.

RESOLUTION ON DIVERSITY OF STUDENT BODY

Whereas faculty are concerned that the MU campus has not become more racially and socio-economically diverse and we wish to avoid changes that lead to a student body that is less diverse.

Whereas the Faculty Council on MU policy, acting pursuant to an MU faculty vote in a general meeting on May 12, 1992, urged the Governor, the Legislature and the Board of Curators to implement and fund a positive, proactive program to ensure that high school graduates in the State of Missouri are not disadvantaged on the basis of - sex,
- race,
- marital status.
- the financial capacity of their school districts

in gaining admission to MU.

Be it resolved that the Faculty Council on MU policy reaffirms its position that maintaining a diverse student body is vitally important to the quality of the University as a learning environment and again urges the Governor, the Legislature and the Board of Curators to take action to achieve diversity.

The motion passed by a voice vote.

Discussion Items
Issues for Intercollegiate Athletics. Professor Settgergren, Faculty Athletic Representative, in a memo dated March 15, 1993 asked Faculty Council to look at three issues that affect student athletes.

1. The interpretation of Article IV of the Academic Regulations dealing with the classroom authority of faculty in cases of excessive student absences.

2. The lack of uniformity by faculty in accommodating absences from class by student athletes and other students who, from time to time, must be away from campus and class to compete or otherwise represent MU in some official capacity.

3. Correspondence courses and regularly scheduled courses on campus are administered differently. The campus courses must be completed within a semester’s time, there is a one-year limit for correspondence courses. If, at the end of the one year, the correspondence course has not been completed, the student is dropped. No record of ever having been registered and attempting these courses appears on the student’s transcript. On the other hand if a student fails to withdraw from a campus course the appropriate grade must be awarded by the instructor at the end of the semester. This grade appears on the student’s transcript.

These concerns were referred to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Coordinating Board for Higher Education

The CBHE has approved the following statements on the University’s academic policies:

Faculty Council endorsed the report of the Academic Planning Committee dated 2/26/93. At that meeting Chairman Hunvald predicted that the Board of Curators (BOC) was not going to adopt any of the admission categories offered by the CBHE. Instead the BOC adopted the following.

University of Missouri System
Board of Curators
Response to CBHE Admission Categories
March 18, 1993

“On the recommendation of President Russell and with the concurrence of the Chancellors, it is moved that the University of Missouri establish high school class rank and ACT test score standards for the admission of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshmen which are equivalent to those in the CBHE Critical Choices “Selective” option. These standards would become effective for the freshman class entering the University in the fall of 1997, and will be implemented and applied in a manner consistent with the University’s enrollment management policies, and recognizing the University’s goal of increasing the participation and graduation rate of historically under-served populations.

The University makes this choice on the basis of consistency with its mission as a land-grant institution and with the expected availability of resources to provide high quality programs for its students. However, the University will set many outcome goals which are consistent with the “Highly Selective” option in the Critical Choices report. Decisions in regard to these goals will be reflected by Board action on campus implementation plans which are to be submitted to the CBHE in June 1993.”

Chairman Hunvald pointed out certain phrases in that motion. It states “…which are equivalent to those in the CBHE Critical Choices Selective option.” Equivalent does not necessarily mean “the same as”. There were two amendments to the original motion. The first was…”and will be implemented and applied in a manner consistent with the University’s enrollment management policies”. The BOC seems to be moving in a process of controlled admissions.
students should be admitted and then sets the admission policies to arrive at that number of students. The second amendment was ...and recognizing the University's goal of increasing the participation and graduation rate of historically under-served populations." This amendment is consistent with the resolution adopted by Faculty Council earlier in this meeting. Chairman Hunvald feels it is a recognition that adoption of some of those "Selective" standards, if applied literally, would seriously affect the enrollment of minorities at all four UM campus.

Library Budget. As outlined in the "Special Edition" of the University of Missouri-Columbia Libraries there is a projected shortfall of $235,000. Thus, additional titles will need to be canceled effective with the 1994 calendar year. A lengthy discussion occurred but there was no resolution to the problem.

Board of Curators Report
The report has been distributed via E-Mail and has been reported well in the press. There was a brief discussion about the reallocation plan presented to the BOC by Chancellor Kiesler.

IFC Report
The IFC met after the March 18, 1993 BOC meeting. There were very few vital issues discussed.

Academic Planning Committee
The Committee has not recently met.

Standing Committee Reports

Academic Affairs (Steve Matthews)
The plus (+) minus (-) grading committee is making progress. The Tenure Task Force has met once. The issues of Saturday final examinations and the campus policy with regard to dropping courses are being reviewed. A report on these issues will follow.

Faculty Affairs (John Bauer)
The next Faculty Forum will be on May 1, 1993. There will also be one in the fall semester.

Fiscal Affairs (John Miles)
The committee has met with Dick Otto and reviewed budgets and budget trends within the divisions.

Special Projects (Loren Nikolai)
The committee is investigating the current rules of order and have identified a few miscellaneous issues that they still need to address.

Student Affairs (Bob Birkenholz)
No report.

Any Other Business
Several Faculty Council members questioned the current campus planning process and stressed the need for strong faculty leadership. It was suggested that the entire Faculty Council meet with Chancellor Kiesler.

Closed Session for Committee
Assignments, Personnel Matters, and Adjournment
The following individuals were named to the Assessment Policy Committee to replace individuals who have declined to serve.

        Ed Kieser (Chemistry)
        David Geary (Psychology)

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brent D. Jones, Recorder

Report to the
General Faculty Steering Committee
on Plus-Minus Grading

Committee Charge: The Academic Affairs Committee endorses the 12-point plus-minus grading system for the MU campus and petitions MU's Faculty Council on University Policy to appoint a steering committee to develop an op-
Committee members' discussion has centered around the following issues pertaining to the development of the proposal:

- Characteristics of the letter grade scale:
- Whether the letter scale should include an A+.
- Should there be plus-minus grades below C?
- What numerical values should be assigned to the letter grades?
- Other

Policy implications:
- Regulations currently tied to a specific GPA (e.g., GPA required for good standing, Dean's List, Latin Honors, scholarship eligibility, admissions).
- Regulations/policies that deal with specifying certain levels of grades (e.g., prerequisite courses with a C or better and WI courses).
- Whether a C- is equal to an S grade under the S/U system. Should the grade range or the numeric value of a grade be used to determine if a student has met a certain requirement?
- Costs of implementation (start-up and continuance).
- Comparability of grades (within UM system and between MU and other universities).
- Other

The Steering Committee has revised the timeline as follow:
- First draft of proposal due to Faculty Council on August, 1993
- Faculty and Student Fora on the plus-minus proposal, August and September, 1993
- Final revisions and faculty mail ballot, October 1993
- If adopted, the system will be operational beginning fall semester, 1994

Submitted by Michael Prewitt
Chairman
MU Steering Committee on Plus-Minus Grading
(4/29/93)