

Date: October 8, 2013

From: Dennis K. Miller

Subj: Missouri Association of Faculty Senates Meeting Report – October 7 and 8, 2013

To: Faculty Council

The following summarizes important issues for our campus that were discussed at the October 7 and 8 Missouri Association of Faculty Senates (MAFS) meeting. I left the MAFS meeting on October 8 two hours before it adjured, due to another commitment.

1. Dr. David Russell, Commissioner of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE, www.dhe.mo.gov/cbhe), spoke on the challenges from state government facing higher education. He commented that what politicians in the legislative and executive branch know about higher education often comes from anecdotes and news reports, rather than from discussion with students, faculty or campus administrators. As such, it is important for stakeholders in higher education to promote their contributions to Missouri's economy and quality of life.

Dr. Russell mentioned that he is often challenged by legislators about higher education efficiency and performance funding. We should plan on continuing funding plans where justification for the entire budget is provided, rather than focusing on year-to-year increases.

The CBHE will continue to work on implementation of HB-1042. Two important components of HB-1042 are 1) the core transfer library of at least twenty-five lower division courses that are transferable among all public higher education institutions, and 2) reverse transfer which allows integration of four-year and two-year institutions toward earning an associate's degree. Mizzou needs to continue evaluating the potential impact of HB-1042 on how our students are prepared for upper division courses and the overall value and quality of an undergraduate degree conferred from our campus.

Dr. Russell said that he, or one of his associates, would be happy to discuss CBHE activities with our Council. He welcomes feedback and comments from faculty.

2. During several sessions, MAFS members discussed the impact of income tax and tax credit initiatives in Jefferson City on higher education funding. While HB-253, which would have significantly reduced income tax rates and (potentially) revenues, was vetoed by the Governor, MAFS members speculated that similar bills will be introduced next year.

3. Representatives from Missouri State University (MSU) and Missouri Western stated that they are using the University of Missouri System's sponsored-dependents benefits program as a model for their efforts. MSU hopes to add benefits for the children of the sponsored-dependent in their program.

4. Representatives from Northwest Missouri State (NWMS) encouraged each campus to review its policies for international student recruitment. The NWMS representative reported that some international students experience financial exploitation by agents in their home country that coordinate their application and travel to Missouri. Although the university is not directly responsible for this putative problem, NWMS representatives suggested consideration of controls to protect vulnerable international students.

5. Other institutions in Missouri are searching for Presidents and Chief Academic Officers. Several MAFS members encouraged caution with the use of external firms in the search process, as firms may not accurately reflect the characteristics and priorities of the campus to candidates. Dr. David Robinson (AAUP and Truman State University representative) stated that the AAUP has guidelines and recommendations for administrator searchers: Most of these encourage faculty participation in all recruitment and hiring activities.