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Subj: Intercampus Faculty Council Report – May 14, 2014

To: Faculty Council

The following summarizes important issues for the MU Faculty Council from the May 14 Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) meeting.

1. The role of economic development in the promotion and tenure process and in annual evaluations was discussed. The questions raised included the following.

- Should economic development be a mission for a public university? Is it appropriate for a faculty member with the protection of an academic appointment (i.e., little personal financial risk) to be engaged in a competitive marketplace?
- What do we mean by “economic development”, exactly? The focus has been primarily on patents and commercialization from engineering and science (e.g., computer science and chemistry) faculty. However, would faculty-developed programs to decrease poverty and economic inequality be considered “economic development”?
- Who are the appropriate individuals to value the academic impact of economic development activities?
- When in a faculty member’s career should economic development be considered?

Members recommended a more-thorough consideration of this issue on each campus and at IFC next academic year.

2. Faculty members from Kansas City reported on their experiences with Course Hero, a private website where students upload instructor material (e.g., a course syllabus, exams and Power Point slides) for other students to download for a fee. After the UMKC legal counsel contacted Course Hero notifying of the violation of the faculty member’s intellectual property rights, the material was removed. However, this was a long process and it is not clear if UMKC property overall will be prohibited from Course Hero, or if material will be removed on a case-by-case basis (i.e., individual faculty members need to review Course Hero for personal violations).

IFC members asked Steve Graham (Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs) to have UM System legal counsel to draft a general statement faculty members can place in a syllabus to dissuade students from uploading material to websites like Course Hero. Faculty members are also encouraged to tell their students that uploading material is theft and is a violation of the campus honor code.

3. The faculty workload document prepared by IFC was discussed with President Tim Wolfe. Tony Lupo (our representative to the subcommittee that prepared the document) and other IFC members presented the document to the UM General Officer’s meeting in May and reported positive feedback from each of the campus chancellors.

A question for future discussion in each department and division is, “What is the minimal effort a tenured (T/TT) faculty member should engage in research scholarship?” The UM Collected Rules and Regulations imply that a T/TT faculty member must engage in research activities; however, can someone do meaningful scholarship at less than 20 or 30% effort?

4. President Tim Wolfe reported that he is happy with the new courses that will be shared across campuses next academic year. He believes that this will help the UM System increase in size and quality.

5. Steve Knorr (Vice President for University Relations) commented on constantly-changing status of state funding for the UM System and education, in general. He encouraged faculty members to review the UM System website (<http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/ur/>) for news and updates.