

Report prepared for: The Missouri Association of Faculty Senates Report from the University of Missouri, Columbia for Fall 2014

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Continuing Activities:

1. In February 2014, Bowen R. Loftin, former president of Texas A&M University, became the new chancellor of the Columbia campus. MU is currently undergoing a search for a new Provost; we expect to have the names of the finalists in the near future. Faculty Council (and other faculty) provided significant input for the job description, and three FC members are serving on the search committee. Faculty Council and other interested groups have been promised face time with the finalists when they are brought to campus, with such visits expected by the end of the fall semester.
2. MU campus has seen significant turnover in upper level campus and college administration, including the deanships of the College of Engineering, College of Medicine, the School of Journalism, the School of Health Professions. Further retirements and turnover are expected.
3. Faculty Council is participating in the university accreditation task force. Our 10-year accreditation site visit is scheduled for February 2015, and all our documentation are due to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) by late 2014. The five criteria by which we are to be evaluated are Mission; Integrity (ethical policies, etc.); Quality, Resources and Support for Teaching and Learning; Evaluation and Improvement of Teaching and Learning; and Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness.
4. UM and MU strategic planning have been the primary focus of Faculty Council in the current semester. The new system-driven strategic plan (MUSOP) has refocused campus priorities, with retention of AAU status considered primary. As part of that effort, in fall 2013 and summer 2014, campus awarded high-percentage raises to roughly 15% of faculty. There is concern that morale is low among faculty as these raises were based on narrow criteria. There is also significant concern about the new rescission policy, which takes 2% from all campus units and redistributes these funds based on strategic plan priorities. Faculty Council is looking at these issues through the Fiscal Affairs and the Faculty Affairs subcommittees.
5. Mold decimated MU library resources in an off-site storage facility. In early spring semester 2014, Faculty Council appointed an external committee to work with and monitor the efforts of MU Libraries to identify causes and remedies.

New Initiatives / Activities

- 1) Faculty Council formed an external committee to look into issues of faculty morale and governance in the College of Medicine.. The purpose of the committee is to provide the new incoming Dean with useful information as he assumes leadership of the college.
- 2) Since early spring semester 2014, UM System and the Columbia campus have been engaged in extensive work to formulate procedures for addressing sexual harassment under Title IX. Among other actions taken, UM President Tim Wolfe issued Executive Order 40, which made the majority of MU employers mandatory reports. This month, he also issued Executive Order 41, which establishes new system-wide policies and procedures for dealing with sexual harassment and discrimination on the UM campuses. The FC subcommittees, Student Affairs and Diversity have been active participants in this ongoing effort.
- 3) UM System IFC developed a new workload document for faculty. It has ben presented to MU chairs to provide guidance for workload issues with faculty and staffing.