Minutes of the February 2, 2017  
Faculty Council Meeting

Attendance
Members present: Anne Alexander, Sheila Baker, Christi Bergin, David Bergin, Tina Bloom, John Gahl, Francisco Gomez, Trent Guess, Casandra Harper, Berkley Hudson, Art Jago, Rabia Gregory (for Dennis Kelley), Teng Lim, Tony Lupo, Leslie Lyons, Camila Manrique, John Middleton, Clark Peters, Rebecca Scott, Patrick Shiu, Anne Stanton, Marty Steffens, Mary Stegmaier, Kristin Taylor, Ben Trachtenberg, Vitor Trindade, William Wiebold, Roger Fales (for Robert Winholtz), Flore Zephir, Rebecca Graves (Librarians), Don Sievert (MURA), Karen Piper (AAUP), and Rebekah Hart (Council Secretary). Members absent: Naresh Khatri, Jeffrey Rouder, Marcia Shannon, and Mahesh Thakkar.

Approval of Minutes
Chair Trachtenberg called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The minutes of the 1-19-17 meeting were approved as presented.

Report of Officers
Chair Trachtenberg noted that the Faculty Council (FC) statement concerning students affected by current U.S. presidential executive orders regarding immigration law is posted on the FC website. David Currey, Assistant Director of the International Center is here should questions arise.

The MU Chancellor search committee held its first meeting 01-06-2017. Impressive group. Trachtenberg signed a non-disclosure form so can say no more.

Governor Greitens announced his budget today. Approximately 10% less of what was promised for the current year, but close to what we’re actually going to get (after withholds). Budget czar, VC Gibler, is here with us today.

The Business Policy & Procedure Manual (BPPM) is in the process of being updated by the the office of Gary Ward, VC for Operations, with assistance from the UM General Counsel’s Office. The chalking proposal and the proposal from the committee headed by Bob Jerry regarding protests, public spaces & free speech are being turned into proper format for the BPPM. Chair has been told that the committee that looks over BPPM language has a meeting scheduled in February and will hold extra meetings if need be. Chancellor’s office should get document in March. Should be final by Spring Break. Mark Van Zandt (of the GC’s office), thank you for your work on this.

Bob Jerry, Isidor Loeb Professor of Law, has been recognized with a Faculty Council Citation, approved in closed session on Jan. 19. Trachtenberg read the letter nominating Mr. Jerry for the FC Citation and presented the certificate.
Stephanie Shonekan, Chair of Black Studies and Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology, has also been recognized with a Faculty Council Citation, approved in closed session on Jan. 19. Trachtenberg read the letter nominating Dr. Shonekan and presented the certificate.

Curators Breakfast upcoming. At their upcoming meeting, Curators will vote on changes to CRRs concerning discrimination and equity. We heard from Marsha Fischer on these amendments at last IFC meeting. Much of what was recommended by MU faculty has been included in these changes. Marsha has done a tremendous amount of work on this and went out of her way to explain why specific changes were not accepted. Certain proposed changes not accepted at this time may be reconsidered later, in a subsequent effort to tweak the CRRs.

**Action Item(s)**

**Academic Affairs Resolution on Teaching Evaluations – Jago.** Chair reviewed item which calls for the addition of a sentence to course evaluation table used in dossiers related to tenure and promotion. The sentence would read: “The student questionnaire producing these evaluation averages has not been shown to possess construct validity nor has it been shown to predict teaching effectiveness or learning outcomes.” Issue was discussed at last meeting. No additional discussion. Motion passed.

**Discussion Item(s)**

**Guests: Hank Foley, Interim Chancellor, and Rhonda Gibler, Vice Chancellor for Finance.**

Foley greeted Council and noted that national issues, state issues, financial issues abound. Looking at national issues to determine effects on students, faculty & staff. International Programs staff have met with students and given advice regarding travel ban. Have been in support of everything coming out of our support groups in Washington, D.C. It is an uncomfortable situation to use most mild word. Foley stated he has a sense of optimism and has been through similar events in past such as 9/11. He thinks cooler heads will prevail and we will get through.

Next is state budget. Learned that hit to the UM System is $40M. MU is expected to get $22M cut to core, plus line items. Looking at $22M-plus cut for next year (FY18). This is a painful cut. Equally as painful is cut of $20M for June (remainder of FY17). Need to think about effect on people and programs. Have reserve funds, but they are distributed across many accounts. Recognize we need to do two things, control costs and drive up enrollment.

Foley is sun-setting old committees and starting new ones. In concert with open book management, he wants an open process on committees. The committees will be for three years and might become permanent and will look at rate funds, capital decisions, cost monies. We have a lot to do and we have to do it together. The representatives have to go back to their people and have discussions.

Right now in the current State Legislative session are some things that cause us indigestion. Watching carefully proposal HB 266 from Rep. Brattin regarding tenure. If we want to protect tenure for future generations, need to have post-tenure reviews (which already exist). Have to convince politicians that this is being done and done well.
Worried about guns. Legal as of this year to carry concealed gun without permit over age 21. All campus presidents got together to keep ban of guns on campus. New bill says that with a permit, you can carry a gun anywhere. Would find it quite discouraging if this goes through.

Discussion centered on what's under consideration for budget cuts, the impact of cuts and other options for revenue. Foley stated that all things are under consideration for cuts and that they might go deeper in certain areas than a 5% cut; however, it is not wise for the Chancellor to cut vertically. He stated that the impact is unknown but it will affect our ability to be a research university. Looking at certificates and other ideas for additional revenue, though tuition is the big driver.

Vice Chancellor of Finance, Rhonda Gibler stated that for many years of her career, she talked about needing to find a different model of revenue and allocation. If this doesn’t inspire us to do so, doesn’t know what will. She announced the forthcoming creation of three committees that will work together: revenues, allocation of resources, and infrastructure.

Regarding revenue, the current model of fees makes it difficult for families and students to understand cost of education. Need a model that recognizes that the cost of doing education business doesn’t change over time. 80% of budget is people making sure that students have experience they need. Can’t drive that cost down. Students and families are paying a greater share than the state.

Currently, there’s a base model for allocation, but there are lots of other ways that money is being allocated. Provided the example of online courses where revenue streams are diverted before they are allocated. Not wrong, but need to look at these and build a mission based allocation model that starts from what we want to do.

We have not maintained infrastructure. We have a laundry list of things to do, and then look for folks to pay for it. If someone is willing to pay for it, that is the project that gets done. Need to have a stream of money for this. Money attracts money.

Watch for forthcoming information on charge for each committee and call for volunteers. Representation will be staff, faculty & students. If folks have expertise, please let us know. Volunteers and nominations come directly through campus level. Vetting will be through faculty, staff & student councils.

Questions focused on open book management, attracting students and travel ban. Gibler and Foley stated that open book management is a new culture and they are pushing it down from the top and asks that we push for it from the bottom up. Agree that there needs to be more advertising and publicity. Administration including enrollment management working on issues of image including safety. Regarding the travel ban, working to reassure students and working with elected officials to express dissatisfaction on this.

Standard of Faculty Conduct (received from IFC) – Bill Wiebold. Wiebold gave update that the IFC committee hasn’t met yet and he expects the draft will be modified somewhat. Please pass along comments to him. No action was taken.
Motion to adopt Jan. 28th Statement by Department of Religious Studies – Dennis Kelley.

Chair introduced the item which is a letter calling for support from MU of students in light of the U.S. President’s executive order addressing international travel from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. Rabia Gregory noted that issues they raised in the statement haven’t been addressed by the University. They would like support beyond their department. The faculty of Religious Studies thinks this statement goes above and beyond the FC statement approved on Jan. 30. The University has a better guide on Mumps than the travel ban. Rabia Gregory moved that FC approve the statement. Seconded. Discussion ensued and focused on accuracy of language and financial impact of providing legal representation.

John Gahl moved to refer the matter to the FC Student Affairs Committee for review and a subsequent report and recommendations. Seconded. Motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports:

Faculty Affairs (Bloom). The committee is working on the following:
1) Meeting with MU librarians to discuss their status as NTT faculty under the current CRRs – addressing an issue raised by Ann Riley, Acting Director of MU Libraries;
2) Meeting as a committee to discuss a couple of proposals related to faculty morale (pursuant to the first item on our charge) & other items.
3) The Ad Hoc Committee on Civil Rights & Title IX is gearing up to meet as well. Marsha Fischer from General Counsel has shared that the CRR revisions approved by Faculty Council are working their way through the system.

Fiscal Affairs (Gahl). The committees that VC Gibler mentioned are going to be extremely important. Those willing to spend the time serving are encouraged to step up.

Diversity Enhancement (Baker). Committee discussing diversity course. Setting up meetings with Ted Tarko, Associate Dean of College of Arts & Science, and with others.

Student Affairs (Zephir). Since last semester, the Student Affairs Committee has been working on various ways (best practices) to improve the freshmen experience (or for that matter the entire undergraduate experience at MU). To that end, we have spoken to Dr. Cathy Scroggs, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and also to Anna Valiavska, who is one of the coordinators for Student Services, working with Freshmen.

Our committee met earlier today; we will be bringing some recommendations to Council reasonably soon. One such idea is that mid-term grades be formally issued to students, which will be replaced later by final grades at the end of the semester. This has the advantage of enabling professional and faculty advisors to access student’s grades before early registration, and advising them accordingly. We also discuss more awareness of MU Connect (which could, by the way, be more user friendly) to track student progress more effectively, thus giving again faculty and advisors the opportunity to intervene sooner than later.
Other recommendations are also in the works to enable students, particularly freshmen, to focus more on academics than to be distracted by all sorts of extracurricular activities that have shown to affect negatively the first-year college experience.

Adjournment
Faculty Council went into closed session at 4:45 p.m. to discuss the report from the Honorary Degrees Committee.

Council adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Graves, Recorder