

Minutes of October 15, 2009
Faculty Council Meeting

Attendance

Members Present: Clyde Bentley, Leah Cohn, John Dwyer, Ann Harrell, Arthur Jago, Victoria Johnson, Jonathan Kriekhaus, Norman Land, April Langley, Kenneth MacLeod, Thomas Marrero, Cathy Thomas (for Rebecca McCathren), Joseph Parcell, Leona Rubin, Stephen Sayers, Michael Taksar, James Tarr, Harry Tyrer, Douglas Wakefield, J. Wilson Watt, Adam Whaley-Connell, Bill Wiebold, Shelley Worden (Librarians), Edward Hunvald (Retirees), Stephen Montgomery-Smith (AAUP), Rebekah K. Hart (sec.). Members Absent: Michael Diamond, Rebecca Johnson, John Lande, Alan Luger, Xiaoguang Ni, Johannes Schul, Ronald Wheeland, Fred Williams (NTT), Charles Nilon (Black Faculty & Staff).

Approval of Minutes

Chair Leona Rubin called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., in S203 Memorial Union. The 10-1-09 Council minutes were approved as submitted. The agenda order was suspended in order to take our guest first.

Report of Officers

Rubin announced that she met with Beth Chancellor, Chief Security Officer, IT services to discuss the acceptable use policy regarding email. This policy allows IT personnel access to email accounts in the event of death, university termination, etc. This is scheduled to come before the Board of Curators at their October meeting. The Fall Semester General Faculty meeting is October 21.

Vice Chair Bill Wiebold reported on the recent Missouri Association of Faculty Senates (MAFS) Fall Meeting. Some of the agenda topics were: (1) review of MAFS constitution and bylaws; (2) preparation of a document for future presentation to the legislature called “the life of a faculty member”; (3) SB 389 and its impact on course evaluation; (4) concealed weapons; (5) e-course ownership and faculty rights.

Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) Representative J. Wilson Watt reported on the October IFC meeting. Since 1965 there have been “slumps” in funding every ten years or so regardless of the economy being good or bad. The tax base shrinks and there is less funding from the legislature. This cycle is being made more difficult now because of the poor economy. The 2011-2012 anticipated budget year does not look promising in terms of state support. The President is looking for alternative ways to keep the university running efficiently.

Discussion Item(s):

Guest: Provost Brian Foster. Foster gave Council a report on Mizzou Advantage. Discussion began about three years ago on what strategic advantages MU has that will compete with other universities. There were some strategic assets identified: the reactor, the interaction between Veterinary Medicine and Medicine, the Journalism School and external partnerships with Cerner, Monsanto, etc. Five strategic areas were identified: (1) food for the future; (2) sustainable

energy; (3) new media; (4) comparative medicine; and, (5) understanding and managing disruptive transformational technologies. These areas are loosely defined in order to allow input for development. Examples of possible activities: major clinical trials partnering with University of Missouri Kansas City and sponsoring major conferences in these strategic areas. More federal funds are available for “mega projects” that have multiple collaborations. The defining action is to have impact and a world class presence in these strategic areas.

Each strategic area will be facilitated by a facilitator and will be housed together with support staff. There will be an education coordinator for certificate programs, grant writer, development officer, and conference planning coordinator. Each strategic area will have an Advisory Board that will include members from different disciplines. There will be an overarching group (approximately 15 people) who will be hiring the facilitators as the first step.

There are matching funds available for faculty hires within these strategic areas And funds for educational expenses bringing people to campus and professional development Although the current future budget picture is uncertain, investment in these strategic areas would promote increased funding in grants and research dollars.

2011-2012 academic calendar - Parcell. The calendar was introduced to Council for their review and will return at the next meeting as an action item.

Amending 2009-2010 & 2010-2011 academic calendars - Parcell. Calendars amended per Faculty Council action on 2-26-09 that changed the final exam schedule. **Council voted to suspend the rules and this motion passed. A vote was taken to approve the amended calendars and the motion passed.**

Changing the final exam schedule - Parcell. The 2-26-09 item on changing the final exam schedule was resubmitted to Council for further modification. **Council voted to suspend the rules and this motion passed. A vote was taken to approve the modification to changing the final exam schedule and the motion passed. The item appears below with the modification underlined.**

“To amend the academic calendar by moving Reading Day from Friday to Thursday of the final week of classes. Final examinations are to be administered on Friday (the day following Reading Day) and Monday through Thursday of the following week. The Friday that follows 8 days after Reading Day will be reserved for individual make-up exams or in the event that extreme weather conditions or other extraordinary events result in cancellation of a regularly scheduled exam date. The final examination period officially ends at 5:30 p.m. on Friday (eight days after Reading Day).”

No commencement exercises shall be scheduled before 1:00 p.m. on Friday (eight days after Reading Day)”

Electronic voting and other rule changes - Wiebold. This item was briefly introduced and discussed at this meeting. It will return to both our Fall Semester General Faculty meeting on October 21 and our next Faculty Council meeting on November 5.

Syllabus statement changes - Cohn. This item is to remove the “quality of instruction” statement from the syllabus statement on intellectual diversity. It was briefly discussed and will return to our next Council meeting.

Standing Committee Reports

Faculty Affairs: Tarr, chair, reported they are continuing to look at the issue of non-tenure track faculty serving on Campus Standing committees and they are currently gathering information.

Fiscal Affairs: Taksar, chair, reported they are discussing non-fiscal stimulus for faculty.

Student Affairs: Sayers, chair, reported that orders for books are due at the University Bookstore by October 31, 2009. The University Bookstore now has a machine for the printing of books. There will be a pilot program for the rental of books in some of the undergraduate classes. He reported the committee will be meeting soon with the Missouri Student Association (MSA).

Adjournment

Council met for a closed session in order to make committee nominations and meet with William Lamberson, Chair, Honorary Degrees Committee for consideration of two honorary degree nominees. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Worden, Recorder

