

Volume XVIII, Number 6
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
March 21, 2024

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Dr. KC Dolan at 2:00 PM. Roll was called by Secretary Paul Runnion. Those whose names are grayed out below were absent.

Lana Alagha, Venkat Allada, Stuart Baur, Matthew Burmeister, Devin Burns, Jeff Cawfield, Steve Corns, Kathryn C. Dolan, William Fahrenholtz, Darin Finke, Daniel Fisher, Mark Fitch, Mary Gillis, Michael Gosnell, Mike Hilgers, Kelly Homan, Wenqing Hu, Ali Hurson, Umit Koylu, K. Krishnamurthy, Alanna Krolikowski, Bih-Ru Lea, Kelly Liu, Eun Soo Park, Jorge Porcel, V. Prakash Reddy, Melissa Ringhausen, Paul Runnion, Chaman Sabharwal, Rachel Schneider, William Schonberg, Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani, Pourya Shamsi, Jeff Smith, Lia Sotiriou-Leventis, Shoaib Usman, Jee Ching Wang, David Westenberg, Derek Williamson, Alexey Yamilov, Maciej Zawodniok

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 22 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes.

Motion passes.

III. President's Report

Faculty Senate President Dr. KC Dolan began by clarifying that we are all her friends. Then, she indicated that she was told at IFC on March 4 that there was very little she could say, but she is allowed to say that there might be a raise pool this year. She also indicated that P&T processes and practices are being discussed at multiple UM System campuses (including ours).

The Board of Curators will be meeting at S&T on April 18. A group of 10-12 students will be attending the Curators' reception on April 17. This replaces the former poster presentations at lunch and will hopefully allow for more organic conversations to occur.

President Dolan discussed the progress on the strategic plan and thanked those who have participated in the process. Suggestions from faculty task forces have been passed along to the Provost's Office for further consideration, along with comments from open forums and surveys. She emphasized that it is a living document. She also announced that there are now faculty liaisons attached to each strategic focus area.

President Dolan also announced that two professional education projects are underway,

with CEC working on a St. Louis program and CASE working on a summer conference about National Security in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Finally, President Dolan announced that three honorary degree recipients have been chosen, approved, and notified. The names cannot yet be made public.

IV. Campus Reports

A. Staff Council

No report

B. Student Council

No report

C. Council of Graduate Students

No report

V. Special Topic – Facilities Planning

Fred Stone, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facility Planning and Operations, gave a brief presentation about ongoing and upcoming capital projects. He discussed the new Innovation Lab, which is now open and includes a variety of spaces for student use (including the relocated Student Success Center). Groundbreaking for the Welcome Center, which will include versatile event spaces with extensive AV capabilities, should occur within the next few weeks. He also discussed the pedestrian underpass project, the Missouri Protoplex, the Applied Research Center (which is the proposed renaming and expansion of the existing Engineering Research Lab), the Schrenk Hall East renovation, and the expansion of the Geothermal system.

Following his presentation, questions were asked about potential future plans for a renovation of the Physics Building (it is a high priority now that Schrenk is being addressed); the relative lack of additional classroom space in new construction given our goal of 12,000 students; the plan for the Schrenk G-3 lecture hall (plans are to maintain a lecture hall of similar capacity in that location), ongoing maintenance strategies given current deferred maintenance issues and the growth of space on campus, and the issues of rain in faculty offices due to roof issues.

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Campus Curricula (CC)

Dr. Petra DeWitt presented for the CC. The CC met on February 27, 2024 and reviewed 26 Course Change forms (CC forms), 4 Program Change forms (PC forms), 1 Department Name Change Request, and 1 Experimental Course form (EC form).

The CC moves that Faculty Senate approve the 14 CC forms, 4 PC forms, and 1 Department Name Change.

Motion passes.

Dr. DeWitt also provided information about updated approval processes for emphasis areas, undergraduate certificates, and graduate certificates.

B. Budgetary Affairs

Dr. Mark Fitch presented for Budgetary Affairs. He provided an update on FY2024 operating revenue and expenses before providing information about what the FY2025 revenues may look like. He also briefly discussed the five-year plan for revenue and expenses.

Next month, Dr. Fitch plans to address maintenance costs and the business intelligence office in his report.

C. Personnel

Dr. Dave Westenberg presented for the Personnel Committee. He indicated that the committee has approved the distribution of the annual Faculty/Staff Climate Survey in April 2024. The committee has formed an ad hoc committee to help finalize changes to the NTT promotion policy, with the understanding that the administration will need to be involved in revising Policy Memorandum II-13 to include librarians and hopefully further refine the process of NTT promotion for all NTT faculty.

The Personnel Committee has received a referral to review and negotiate the annual Salary and Wage Guidelines based on recommendations regarding the guidelines submitted by the department chairs council, and the committee is currently working on the matter.

D. Committee for Effective Teaching (CET)

Dr. Devin Burns presented for the CET. He indicated that the proposal presented at last month's Faculty Senate meeting has been revisited after referral back to committee, and a new motion has been drafted for consideration. Dr. Burns presented the following motion on behalf of the CET:

Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) data should be treated as confidential personnel data. If a department wants to grant access to SET data to a department position (e.g. an assistant chair) other than the department chair, that department's full-time faculty need to approve such access with a two-thirds supermajority vote, with separate votes for access to 1) quantitative data and 2) student comments. Such access will continue to be granted to whomever is in that position unless the department has another vote that does not have two-thirds support for continuing to provide them access. When there is a needed change in access, please contact CAFE and the chair of the CET.

After an amendment process (which was mostly friendly) and a few questions were raised with regards to whether this would become policy or simply suggestion, the following revised motion was presented:

Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) data must be treated as confidential personnel data. The university currently provides department chairs access to this data. If a department wants to grant access to SET data to a department position (e.g. an assistant chair) other than the department chair, that department needs to approve such access with a two-thirds vote of the full-time department faculty, with separate votes for access to 1) quantitative data and 2) student comments. Such access will continue to be granted to whomever is in that position unless the department has another vote that does not have two-thirds support for continuing to provide them access. When there is a needed change in access, please contact CAFE and the chair of the CET.

Voting was done by a show of hands.

Motion passes.

Following the passage of the motion, Dr. Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani moved that the CET Committee's motion restricting access to SET data (which was just passed) be forwarded to the Chancellor for consideration as a policy memorandum. The motion was seconded. Voting was done by a show of hands.

Motion passes.

E. ITCC

Dr. Dan Stutts presented on behalf of the ITCC committee. He provided an update on the Zotero situation (which included potential good news), Matlab authentication issues, Bitlocker rollout, and the Dell Bulk Computer Purchase. He also briefly discussed data classification levels.

F. Rules, Procedures, and Agenda (RP&A)

Dr. Kate Sheppard presented on behalf of RP&A. She provided an update regarding the procedure for our upcoming elections in April, including information as to what the bylaws say regarding elections.

We are currently seeking a Faculty Senate Secretary for the next academic year. Contact any current Faculty Senate officer if you are interested.

Dr. Sheppard also indicated that we will be electing a chair for RP&A for the Fall 2024 semester since current Faculty Senate President Dolan will be unable to serve in this capacity in the fall.

G. Tenure Policy

Dr. Eric Bryan presented on behalf of the Tenure Policy Committee. The committee is proposing revisions to the Campus Tenure Policy document. The current campus document was ratified in 2019 and the CRR on tenure was updated in 2020, so the current campus document is therefore ineffectual and, at worst, confusing and misleading to candidates. The updated documents will be circulated well in advance of the April Faculty Senate meeting in preparation for a vote in April.

While the changes will bring our campus document in line with the CRRs and correct factual inconsistencies, there will be no major procedural changes.

VII. Unfinished Business

None

VIII. New Business

None

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul N. Runnion, Secretary