

Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) Report January 8, 2008 University Hall, Columbia, MO

Student Complaints. One topic of initial discussion was at what level complaints (we primarily discussed those concerning faculty members) should go and at what level should initial attempts at resolution occur. All seemed to agree that, except for special cases such as sexual harassment, that the initial attempts at resolution should normally be made at the department level and then elevated, as appropriate. It was not known whether this is consistent with the procedures on different campuses.

Reporting Financial Misconduct. The financial reporting hot line was discussed in some detail. Some faculty have expressed concerns about the potential for anonymous complaints. Apparently, reports are handled through a third (external) party. UM legal counsel and Human Resources stated that if a complaint was filed against an individual, it would be discussed with that individual and no record would be put in a personnel file if the complaint was unwarranted.

Ethics, Plagiarism, etc. IFC discussed the general need for approaches to educate students on issues of ethics. Many faculty seem to be doing this in their own courses. [It seems to many that we could do this more effectively if we did this training on a broader basis.] One suggestion that was made relative to grade inflation was to list the grade point average for each course with the grade on the transcripts. There were concerns about how complaints are handled on different campuses. It seems that many seem to be submitted and handled at a relatively high level of administration rather than at one closer to the concern.

SB389. There are a large number of reporting requirements associated with SB389. All people who teach (faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, etc.) will have to have their credentials accessible to the general public. Other information will be available only to enrolled students, such as some kind of (yet undetermined) student evaluation.

Governmental Affairs. The Governor proposed a 4.4% increase to the higher education core budget. There is also an additional "Preparing to Care" initiative for health care. Capital requests are being made as well, with MST projects at the

top of the list, but funding for them is not certain. In the longer term, the State is not doing too well financially and, by 2010, projections are for a \$200M shortfall.

President Lamb reported that President Forsee will start on February 18. Lamb will continue for the calendar year of 2008.

The campus reports included our concerns about reporting to the fiscal hotline, losing good faculty members, and the effort in reporting on SB 389 (unfunded mandates). UMSL is up for HLC accreditation and faculty have been involved with this effort. They are also reworking their Bylaws. UMC raised concerns about teaching evaluations and the effects of SB 389 and intellectual pluralism. UMKC will have a new Provost in house in mid February. They are also initiating a new budgeting process. [UMKC seems to be much more involved in the budgeting process than we are.]

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