

Faculty Senate

@ Missouri University of Science and Technology

2007-2008

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March 26, 2008

To: Missouri University of Science and Technology Faculty

Re: Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) Reports

The IFC representatives had a lively discussion about academic dishonesty with many UM staff, including UM legal counsel. The major issue discussed was the latitude that faculty have in assessing students in events dealing with a student's [academic](#) dishonesty. For example, if a student is caught cheating on an exam, is it appropriate to give that student an F or no credit for that exam, or can the student receive an F for the course? In a case from the University of Missouri at Kansas City that was taken all the way to the Supreme Court, the Courts ruled that there are two aspects to dealing with student misconduct, one is academic and the second is disciplinary. Distinguishing between these two items is sometimes difficult. Evaluation for a course relative to an academic situation is completely within the charge of the faculty member, while any disciplinary action would require procedures to be handled by someone at another point in the academic chain of command. If the evaluation is academic, the assessment may not be "arbitrary or capricious". Also, there seem to be some differences in faculty understanding on campuses about the leeway faculty members have in assessing course work in cases of academic dishonesty. It appears that if there is a decision for disciplinary action, then a student must receive notice and is entitled to a hearing. We believe that IFC, UM, and UM Legal will have more to say about this later. We think this is an important issue [for](#) faculty.

IFC also spent time with Vice President for Finance & Administration Nikki Krawitz. She will be presenting the estimated FY 2009 changes in the budget to the Board of Curators at the April meeting. Budget discussions also involved Vice President for Government Relations Steve Knorr. Last year, UM was able to contain costs related to medical insurance. These savings were returned to the campuses and came close to the amount that was required for salary increases for the campuses. It is expected that UM should receive a 4.2% increase in its budget, though in the first round, the House approved a 4.0% increase. Apparently at issue is whether or not promises to higher education were based on dollar amounts or percentages. In order to meet a variety of additional expenses, including a 4% raise pool increase, the entire UM system will be required to balance an [\\$8.1M shortfall](#). This balance may be achieved through reallocations, cost reductions, efficiencies, or additional revenue. Some detailed information on the University budget is obtainable through the UM system web page.

IFC met for the first time with President Gary Forsee. Gary heard a number of updates given by the IFC representatives. His comments to IFC were very much in line with those he made here on campus two weeks ago. MST reported that it is interested/concerned about issues related to spousal hiring, academic dishonesty, graduate student fees (apparently this is being looked into at the System level as well) and a review of how well the tenure process worked in its first round without Deans. We also reported that the 100th Anniversary of St. Pat's was the "Best Ever". UMSL reported on its efforts to figure out how to deal with potentially violent situations with

students. Faculty should be allowed to know when there are potentially violent people in class or on campus. UMC reported that they have a ballot out on their new Grievance Procedures that have been in place as test procedures for a couple of years. They also reported on SB-389 Questions. They will have three questions that will be answerable as either Agree, Disagree, or No Opinion. They are also concerned about compliance costs to various kinds of administrative oversight such as IRB. UMKC has simplified its IRBs for Social Sciences. The faculty involvement in their resource allocation model has been significant and it is moving forward. The model allows the unit to keep the tuition dollars generated by the unit. However, there are charge backs that will eliminate some of these funds. They will have an automated book retrieval system in their library and their Bylaws are likely to be revised (first time since 1984).

Discussion on spousal employment situations resulted in a determination that UMC has a Spousal Accommodation Policy. UMC and UMKC were definitive that spouses should play no role in any kind of evaluation that relates to either title or a raise for a spouse.

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