

November 12, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

### **AC gives way to FS**

This month's Academic Council (AC) meeting may formally be its last. If the Bylaws, recently passed by the General Faculty, are ratified by the University of Missouri's Board of Curators at its November 29 – 30, 2007 meeting, the Academic Council will become the Faculty Senate (FS). The charges for this body will be the same as the AC. The first meeting of the FS of MS&T is planned for January.

At the November AC meeting, we will have a Curriculum Committee report and a report from Public Occasions that includes the academic year calendar for 2009/10. Standing committees are working on a variety of issues including: an excused absence policy, computing privacy policy, more recently, the Budgetary Affairs Committee has been charged with developing a mechanism for disseminating information about salary distributions among faculty and administration to the faculty.

### **Board of Curators November Meeting**

In addition to the Bylaws, the Board of Curators should be presented with a series of modifications to our Collected Rules and Regulations (CRR's). For the most part, these changes deal with either the elimination of deans or schools and determine who handles the responsibilities that deans would have. Important examples of CRR's that have been changed are those dealing with tenure and promotion, so that our tenure process is consistent with the CRR's of the University of Missouri System and the UMR tenure rules, recently passed by AC. The Academic Council officers, as well as some committee chairs, have been active in the process of reviewing the CRR's, along with members of the administration. In many cases, the activities prescribed for deans will be followed something along the lines of: *on campuses without schools or colleges*, or *on campuses without deans*. In a number of instances, it was logical that the Provost take on some of the authority that the deans had since someone with broader than departmental responsibility would be required.

### **Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC)**

Doug Carroll and I attended the Inter-Campus Faculty Council (IFC) on October 23, 2007 in Columbia. We had a presentation from Vice-President Krawitz on the 2008 Budget. Built into the budget is a 1% pool that will be called "efficiencies". There are also concerns about the budget pool inflation and caps on tuition increases. If you are interested, the budget information is on the web at:

<http://umsystem.edu/ums/departments/fa/budget/operating/2008budgetbookfinal.pdf>

It appears that the Governor is not expecting any significant or any meaningful additional capital projects. Nevertheless, the University of Missouri has identified its top thirteen capital needs.

There is also continuing concern about our compliance with Government financial issues, specifically those in A-133 and A-21.

In addition, Vice-President Krawitz discussed a code of ethics that they have adopted for financial administration of the University. There was no clear decision as to whether a broader code of ethics needed to be in place for the employees of the University.

The UM System is trying to respond to SB389 which mandates a number of things. In particular, it maintains that student evaluations for faculty teaching be available via the web. While the IFC reps were grateful for assistance and guidance from the University, there was a general feeling that each campus should have the opportunity to develop its own evaluation form.

On the human relations front, we are still searching for a new President. The Board seems to feel that it has a strong candidate pool. One bit of good news was that it seems that there will not be any premium increases this year in the Health Benefits Plan, and there will be a 6% reduction in the premium for the Dental Plan.

There was a brief discussion of the Post-Tenure Review and discussions will continue in the November meeting, but information on Post-Tenure Review can be found on UM's web site at:

<http://www.umsystem.acadmicaffairs/posttenurereview.edu>

Finally, there was a brief discussion of criminal background checks. The criminal background form has been modified in response to some complaints and, apparently, these background checks do not apply to faculty receiving tenure and promotion.

### **Back to AC and FS**

I look forward to presiding over the last meeting of the Academic Council of the University of Missouri-Rolla and the first meeting of the Faculty Senate at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. If you would like more information on any of these topics, please look at the Academic Council web site, or contact me or one of the officers.

Sincerely,

Frank D. Blum, President  
Academic Council  
University of Missouri-Rolla