

September 16, 2008

To: Missouri University of Science and Technology Faculty

Re: President's Report for the September 18, 2006 Faculty Senate Meeting

Dear Colleagues:

This is my last report to the faculty as President of the Faculty Senate. This Thursday we will elect new officers and also populate Standing Committees with representatives nominated by Departments (formerly the representatives of the Colleges/Schools) and the Faculty Senate. The RP&A slate of nominees for this year's Officers include: Doug Carroll (President), Michael Schulz (President-Elect), K.M. Isaac (Secretary) and Neil Book (Parliamentarian). I look forward to serving as RP&A Chair with these individuals.

This has been a year filled with activities that seem to have taken an unprecedented amount of time for faculty and staff. Not only did we change our legislative body to a Faculty Senate, but we have worked on changes to many of the collected rules and regulations and Faculty Bylaws. Along with these efforts came changes in policies such as tenure and promotion and handling of curriculum. While these changes are not entirely without problems and the solutions are not perfect, I think the Faculty Senate and various committees have done a fine job.

This has also been a year where, thanks to staff and officer assistance, we have gotten a pretty high level of organization for the operation of the Faculty Senate. The information about and prior to the meetings, plus that of the committees and their deliberations, has routinely been posted on the web. Now we have the challenge of figuring out how to archive this information in a meaningful way.

The interaction of the officers in the Faculty Senate with the Administration of the Campus is good. We have worked together effectively in curriculum and tenure-related procedures. In the future, I hope that the faculty can play a more meaningful role in other areas of the Campus, including budgetary matters and facilities development.

The interaction of the Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) with UM System Officers is also quite good. IFC members and the President and Vice-Presidents, as well as other staff at UM, have good exchanges of information and IFC is also consulted on some matters that ultimately go to the Board of Curators. I have gained a new appreciation of the importance of the UM system and the people who work there.

I appreciate the support that the faculty has shown for both me and the Faculty Senate. It has been an honor to serve this fine institution.

Information on most of the agenda items is on the Faculty Senate web page.

Regards Frank D. Blum President, Faculty Senate