

**Memo to: Kurt Kosbar, President, UMR Academic Council**

**From: Jeff Smith, Chair Academic Council Student Affairs Committee**

**Re: Annual Report of Activities**

**Date: September 18, 2007**

The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) did not have a committee chair for the first portion of the fall semester based in large part on the requirement that standing committee chairs be tenured members of the faculty. A vote was taken during the first meeting of the group and Jeff Smith, Associate Professor of Ceramic Engineering, Department of Materials Science and Engineering was elected chair. The members of the committee for 2006-07 included:

Jeff Smith	Lauren Hutchinson
Stephanie Fitch	Beth Groenke
Scott Miller	Andrew Ronchetto
Yinfa Ma	Kelly McCoy
Hank Pernicka	David Miles

Subsequent meetings of the committee addressed the recognition of student groups as a number of constitutions had been submitted to Student Life during the summer and the committee wanted to make decisions on those prior to the STUCO meeting on SRO funding requests.

Near the end of the Fall semester, the issue of By-law revision had become significant and the committee spent much time reviewing the stated purview of SAC. The most significant issue related to the process by which the university recognized student organizations. In the past, constitution review was completed by SAC and then constitutions were presented to AC for approval. The SROs were then submitted to the Provost who was the final say in recognition of a new SRO on campus. SAC felt that the process of ensuring that constitutions met some minimum standard was not an issue that needed to be completed by a faculty standing committee and that since the provost was the final say in recognition, it was more logical that a provost committee complete the task. A recommendation was made to AC that the Provost should be asked to formulate such a committee and further recommended that that committee be comprised of faculty, administration and students all issues related to a particular SRO could be addressed by one committee. SAC adjusted the by-laws to ensure that all SROs that were denied recognition or that were otherwise sanctioned by the university would be reviewed by SAC and presented to AC as warranted.

The Spring semester was spent aiding in the process of re-writing the Faculty By-laws and the Student Academic Regulations. Although SAC had no formal involvement in the process, all changes that related to students were reviewed by the committee and any

modifications were provided to the ad hoc committee for consideration in subsequent revisions.

The final AC meeting included the approval of two constitutions; one of which deserves note in this report. The constitution of Fraternal Order of Leaders (FOL) was approved by SAC at that AC meeting. On paper FOL was a new student organization, however in reality the group was requesting recognition because it had the status revoked under the name of Theta Tau. The members of SAC struggled with the constitution and many other issues related to this organization for nearly the entire academic year. In the end, SAC was convinced that FOL had done enough in the way of distancing itself from the previous group and the issues that had led to the sanctions and recommended approval of their constitution to Academic Council.

Respectfully submitted September 14, 2007.

Jeffrey D. Smith, Chair Student Affairs Committee