

**Volume XXXVI, Number 5**  
**Minutes of the Academic Council Meeting**  
**January 19, 2006**

**I. Call to Order, Roll, and Approval of Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 13:30 by President Schwartz and roll was taken.

Absentees noted: Belarbi, Luna, Hines, Herade, Hall.

Substitutions noted: Smith for Van Aken, Fisher for Lea, Akin-Bohner for Bohner, Murphy for Robinson.

The meeting minutes of November 17, 2005 were **approved** as submitted.

**II. Reports of Standing and Special Committees**

**A. Curricula (See written reports of Committee from 12/6/05 and 1/3/06)**

(i) 9 of the 10 Degree Change (DC) forms were **approved**. The DC form for the new MS degree in Bioinformatics was **tabled** at the request of the Budgetary Affairs Committee so that they have adequate time to review it.

(ii) 40 Course Change (CC) forms were **approved** as submitted.

(iii) 33 Experimental Course (EC) forms were **noted** by Council..

**III. Old Business**

No reports. There are three active referrals.

**IV. New Business and Announcements**

**A. Election of Representatives for Provost's Search Committee (R. Schwartz)**

RP&A nominated Blum and Kosbar. Cohen was nominated from the floor. A motion to have the election by e-mail or paper ballot was defeated by voice vote. The vote tally was Blum (26), Kosbar (21), and Cohen (15) with the top two serving on the Committee.

**B. Library Report (A. Stewart)**

Scott Bennet, Emeritus University Librarian from Yale, spoke about the need to change the way that libraries use their space. The role of the library is changing and faculty/staff have to change their use with it. There is a Special Committee that will make a report in the near future.

**C. Staff Council (L. Morton)**

Reported that they have new on-line survey that will facilitate interaction/information exchange.

**D. Student Council (N. Mundis)**

Reported they: (i) have a new survey done that they plan to prepare to present this to the Chancellor's Council. (ii) suggested that savings from credit card usage be funneled into needs-based assistance. (iii) voted to support the IT budget for the use of student computing fees.

**E. Council of Graduate Students (P. Shil)**

Reported that they had a student survey done last semester and will try to publish survey findings next month. General election will be held in February. The date and timing of the election will be announced soon.

**F. Referrals**

Open referrals were noted and they will be reported on next meeting.

## V. Reports and Responses

### A. President (R. Schwartz) (Re: Written report w/Agenda)

Reported on an initiative to voice faculty opinions on and suggestions for the Strategic Plan. AC-related Committees will have responsibility for reviewing parts of the plan. RP&A will coordinate the review for AC.

A referral in regards to virtual gaming and its relationship to academic performance will be forwarded to Student Affairs..

### B. Provost (Y. T. Shah) (Re: Written report w/Agenda)

Reported that enrollment and research numbers are looking good. There will be numerous workshops organized by CERTI. There will also be a workshop on the new implementation of the academic alert system. The deadline for the nomination of academic advisor award is Feb. 28. There will be a seminar on “Academic Service Learning” by John Strong on Jan. 31. Both School of Extended Learning and IT service are progressing well. The details are summarized in the report.

### C. Chancellor (J. Carney III)

Reported on strategic planning, budgetary issues, administrative cost reductions, and the capital campaign. There is about a \$6M budgetary problem that has, this year, been distributed across a variety of one-time costs. State support has decreased by \$7M while faculty/staff benefit costs have increased by \$5M plus a significant increase in fuel costs. The goal is to get into balance without layoffs. The increase in State aid announced would only pay for about half of our benefit cost increases. State appropriations and tuition are the two big parts of our budget. We need to increase revenues and decrease expenses. All administrative units will have to have some budgetary cuts. The guiding principle is to do so while maintaining the academic quality.

UMR is in the quiet phase of a capital campaign that is going well. A review of the progress so far was given. We will need to act more and more like a private university. Enrollment needs to be increased. While engineering will always dominate the campus, we need to be more diversified. A variety of revenues sources needs to be enhanced. The campus needs to think seriously about restructuring. Phasing out our schools/colleges and consolidating programs are important strategies to consider.

The floor was opened for discussion.

The meeting was **adjourned** at about 15.15.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank D. Blum, Secretary, Academic Council

\* Minutes of the Academic Council are considered official notification and documentation of actions approved. [*Note: Approved by AC: 2.23.06.*]