

Volume XXXVI, Number 4
Minutes of the Academic Council Meeting
November 17, 2005

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. The following absentees were noted: Hines, Herade, Meagher, Mullin, Samaranayke, Atekwana, Hall, Nystrom, Luna, Isaac, Tsai, Robinson. Substitutions were: J. Myers for Belarbi, R. Miller for Haynes, Schumann for Woelk.

The meeting minutes of October 20, 2005, and October 27, 2005 were approved.

II. Reports and Responses

A. President's Report – Robert Schwartz

The IFC met in Columbia and four issues of particular relevance to the UMR campus were discussed: (1) Multiple versions of the Bylaws appear on web pages and there is some question as to which version was approved by the Curators. RP&A will be working on getting this straightened out. (2) The Instructor Drops policy is being looked at by an AC committee. UM Legal has expressed some concerns about this policy. (3) A resolution from Student Council on Mid-Semester teaching assessments has been received and will be referred to an AC committee. (4) President Schwartz expressed the concerns he has heard about whether AC is representative of the faculty and the effectiveness of AC. He felt that we need to work on these issues and communication is certainly critical. A short discussion surrounding communication and representation occurred where it was noted that AC elections are open and faculty who are not satisfied with representation should run for AC.

It was **voted** that a brief report from AC should be given at the General Faculty meeting.

B. Chancellor's Report – John Carney III

Chancellor Carney reported on a potential joint engineering program with Missouri State University. Currently, civil and electrical engineering programs are under discussion. The degrees would be granted by the University of Missouri. Faculty/Chancellor/AC breakfasts continue and are an opportunity for a variety of discussions. The Chancellor has spent recent time talking with leaders at the oil companies that are expected to do significant hiring in the future. The State has asked higher education to explain how they would handle about a 10-12% cut in state allocations to higher education. The new Carnegie classifications came out today and UMR was put in a "specialized" category along with two other institutions. Chancellor Carney wrote them a letter, and, consequently our status has been changed to: Undergraduate; Professions plus arts and sciences-high graduate coexistence; and Graduate, Doctoral-STEM Dominant.

Discussion followed about the joint Missouri State Engineering Program. There appears to be significant industrial support for the program. Chancellor Carney stated that because this would not be a new degree program and would be taught by our faculty, no AC approval would be required. Since the program cost would be funded with new monies, there was no need to discuss the budget implications.

C. Provost's Report - Y. T. Shah

Provost Shah reported that there has been "great progress" in PeopleSoft. The student administrative system should be complete soon and faculty will be encouraged to use it.

Enrollment and research continues to look good. There will be a new advising award. CERTI has completed the new technology classroom, and a room next door to it will be devoted to faculty training in technology. Distance learning has made good strides recently, including potential students from Saudi Arabia. The UM President reportedly requested that both class ranking (with college prep. curriculum) in addition to ACT scores, be considered for admissions.

III. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

A. Curricula Committee – Michael Schultz

The written report of 11.1.05 was referenced relative to:

Five program curriculum changes (DC) that were **approved** by voice vote.

Sixteen course changes (CC) were **approved** by voice vote.

Twelve experimental courses (EC) were noted. (These do not require AC approval.)

IV. Old Business

A. Election of Committee Representatives – Don Myers

RP&A nominated, and AC **elected** Hal Nystrom for a two-year term on the Facilities Committee.

RP&A nominated, and AC **elected** Rick Stevenson (2 yrs), Ralph Alexander (2 yrs), and Greg Gelles (1 yr) to the Administrative Review Committee.

V. New Business and Announcements

A. Staff Council – Kimberly Frazier

Staff Council has some new members of the staff council. It will hold a food and toy drive through Dec. 5 for the Greater Rolla Area Charitable Enterprise (GRACE).

B. Student Council – Nathan Mundis

Student Council has passed a variety of resolutions including those on: (1) decoupling tuition on the four campuses, (2) allow faculty to be more accommodating to students who wish to attend the career fair, (3) mid-semester reviews of teaching, and (4) a temporary freeze of out-of-state tuition. SC is also working on setting activities fees.

C. Council of Graduate Students – P. Shil

Dean Mitchell has funded one year for engineering students to use the writing center. A seminar on careers was given on campus for graduate students. Graduate students are concerned about the assessment of activity fees and how they are set.

D. Referrals – R. Schwartz

1. Tenure Committee—voting by faculty holding joint appointments
2. Personnel Committee—student mid-semester evaluations
3. Academic Freedom and Standards—student drop policy
4. Ad Hoc Committee—accreditation self-study strategy

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 14.33.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank Blum
Secretary

* Minutes of the Academic Council are considered official notification and documentation of actions approved. [*Minutes approved by AC: 1.19.06*]