

Volume XXXVI, Number 6
Minutes of the Academic Council Meeting
Feb. 23, 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: Hines, Herade, Mullin, Park, Dunn-Norman, Belarbi, Stone, Tsai.

Substitutions noted: Beetner for Hubing, Gragg for Fogg, Roe for Samaranayke, Kallini for Lea, Schumann for Woelk.

The meeting minutes of January 19, 2005 were **approved** as submitted.

II. Reports and Responses

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

Schwartz reported on the timelines for the administrative review. The slides on tenure review from the Carney/Schwartz meeting are on the AC web site. Faculty should be engaged in providing information relative to the potential School/College reorganization.

B. Chancellor (J. Carney III) (Re: Written report w/Agenda)

Chancellor Carney discussed the MOHELA distribution and its implications in terms of UMR projects. Carney is hopeful that we will get more funds than are currently in the plan. He has met with 12 different groups relative to the Strategic Plan, Capital Campaign, and reorganization. A reception is planned for Thursday and a breakfast for Friday of the Board of Curators' meeting. We will highlight UMR at both. At the March meeting of the UM general officers, the fees for next year will be set. A 6% increase in the educational fee is anticipated.

C. Provost (H. Collier for Y. T. Shah) (Re: Written report w/Agenda)

An increase in the number of students over last year's Spring count has been realized. The student module of PeopleSoft has been completed. The student degree audit system has been revamped. Proposals awarded are up this year to date, but the number of proposals submitted has decreased. The academic alert system seems to be working well. The self study for the accreditation process is going to be starting soon. The last time we were accredited was 1998-99. 59 course sections are being offered in extended learning. UMR is among the 25 Most Wired campuses.

II. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

A. Budgetary Affairs (D. Myers)

Budgetary Affairs continues to work on the implications of the Strategic Plan in the budget. [Subsequently, the **table** on the Bioinformatics was lifted, see below.]

B. Curricula (M. Schultz for K. Nisbett) (Re: written reports w/Agenda of 2/7/06)

(i) The Bioinformatics Degree program was removed from the **table**. 1 Degree Change (DC) form for Bioinformatics was **approved** (from prior report).

(ii) 6 Course Change (CC) forms were **approved** as submitted.

(iii) 12 Experimental Course (EC) forms were **noted** by Council.

C. Personnel (R. DuBois) (Re: Written reports w/Agenda)

Personnel **reported** that it has conducted salary surveys and found the following:(more detailed information is included in the pre-meeting report).

a) Overall, with respect to the comparison groups, improvements were noted in UMR faculty salaries between the 2003 and 2005 studies. These improvements were more notable at the Assistant and Associate Professor levels, which are now roughly 6% higher than the average of the comparable institutions whereas the Professor level is currently 6% lower than the average comparison salary.

b) As a function of discipline, the Committee noted:

i) Engineering and like departments: Improvement was noted at all levels. Assistant and Associate Professors are approximately 11% above average; Professors are 6% above average.

ii) A&S: Improvement was noted at Assistant and Associate Professor levels (approximately 3% above average); Professors are currently 11% below average. No dissimilarities were noted between the “arts” and the “sciences”.

iii) Business/Marketing:

No clear conclusions could be drawn due to limited data (number of faculty) and new hires.

The referral on student Mid-Semester recommendations was discussed and, on the recommendation of the Committee, AC **voted to accept** the report including:

That AC a) endorse the importance of student input, particularly input received early in the semester, toward improving communication and teaching effectiveness at all levels of instruction, b) encourage faculty to make students aware of means for providing such input and to voluntarily solicit input at all times during the semester but c) not support implementation of a University-wide application of STUCO Resolution 0506R4.2.

D. Tenure (B. McMillin) (Re: Written reports w/Agenda)

The referral on the voting rights of faculty on tenure and promotion was discussed and AC **voted to accept** the Committee's recommendation that:

No one in the non-primary department (the non-tenure department) has a vote in the applicant's tenure decision.

The referral on economic development as a component was discussed and AC **voted to accept** the Committee's report including that:

The scholarly component of the economic-development activity will be judged under research/scholarship, the service component of the economic-development activity will be judged under service, and the teaching component of the economic-development activity will be judged under teaching. In other words, the rules for P/T will remain as stated in the University of Missouri Systemwide Perspective on Promotion and Tenure, since they are encompassing enough to include all the scholarship/service/teaching that may go into economic-development activity.

E. Academic Freedom and Standards (W. L. Haynes) (Re: Written report w/Agenda)

AC **voted not to adopt** the new rules for Absences and Students Dropped by Instructor. [See New Business below.]

F. Student Affairs (N. Mundis for S. Fitch) (Re: Written reports w/Agenda)

The Constitution of the Residential College and Constitution of Rolla College Democrats were **approved** as submitted.

III. Old Business

No reports. There are three active referrals.

IV. New Business and Announcements

A. Staff Council (L.A. Morton) (Re: Written reports w/Agenda)

No oral report

B. Student Council (N. Mundis)

Student Council passed a resolution accepting additional fees for physics, geology, chemistry, etc. They did not vote on Building Use fees. They passed a resolution supporting MOHELA fund usage for capital expenditures, but petitioned the Governor to increase the amount for the Rolla campus based on a need for more equitable distribution. An outstanding resolution still exists to not have exams during the Career Fair and the day after it. [*Schwartz noted that this is being handled by the Public Occasions Committee.*]

C. Council of Graduate Students (P. Shil)

No report.

D. Referrals

Two new referrals were reported to AC.

1. Student Affairs - Gaming
2. Tenure - Campus P&T Committee make-up

E. Absences and Students Dropped by Instructor

It was **voted** that AC re-review the Absences and Students Dropped by Instructor issues as quickly as possible.

The meeting was **adjourned** at about 15.06.

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: x.xx.xx.*]