

**Volume VII, Number 5
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
February 20, 2014**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 by President Mark Fitch and roll was taken.

Those whose names are **grayed** out below were absent.

S.N. Balakrishnan, Martin Bohner, Michael Davis, Joel Dittmer, **Cassie Elrod**, Bill Fahrenholtz, Mark Fitch, Daniel Forciniti, Ron Frank, **Matt Goldberg**, Abhijit Gosavi, **Steve Grant**, **Katie Grantham**, Barbara Hale, Lance Haynes, (Nancy Stone for) Amber Henslee, Wayne Huebner, Ali Hurson, Ulrich Jentschura, **Kurt Kosbar**, (Ying Chou Lin for) Bih-Ru Lea, (Lesley Sneed for) Ronaldo Luna, Gearoid MacSithigh, Michael Meagher, Mark Mullin, **Daniel Oerther**, Anthony Okafor, Robert Paige, Ted Read, Tom Schuman, **Benjamin Seabough**, Pericles Stavropoulos, Daniel Tauritz, Shoaib Usman, Paul Worsey, Chengshan Xiao, Wan Yang

II. Approval of January 23, 2014 meeting minutes

The January 23, 2014 meeting minutes were **approved** as submitted.

III. Campus Reports and Responses

A. President's Report – Mark Fitch

Dr. Fitch reported on Intercampus Faculty Council. IFC Task Force on workload policy for faculty has received a draft report from Academic Affairs at System. This will be sent to ALL-FAC for comments. Martin Bohner will be the contact person to receive this information.

The University of Missouri Academic Officers have agreed to do a seven year retention of grade books. The Provost has requested a Faculty Senate representative for our campus to decide how to implement this.

FAS shall remain 'live' until July.

Campus items reported on included: enrollment growth and Deans. The Administrative Planning Committee has Faculty Senate representation. Mark Fitch is on the Academic Planning Subcommittee. Tom Schuman is on the Non-Academic Planning Subcommittee. The Provost's website contains information regarding the transition planning. The open forum will be March 5th about the expectations for that transition. The Tenure Committee has been asked, but not referred, to consider P&T process with the Deans.

Details may be found at the following link:

http://facultysenate.mst.edu/media/campussupport/facultysenate/documents/presidentreports/2014/FS_Slides_Feb_2014_Pres_FINAL.pptx

B. Administrative Reports

i. Chancellor Schrader

Chancellor Schrader attended the 40th Annual Legislative Day. She met with a number of our local legislators, the Speaker, Tim Jones, Governor Nixon, and other leaders. There were a group of alumni ambassadors attending and a booth set up in the rotunda. There was an event at the end of the day which brought in the 400 or so volunteers from the System.

The Chancellor is encouraged by the Governor's budget recommendations which he announced in the State of the State address. Five percent core based on performance funding. The University of Missouri System has hit all five of its performance indicators. Three percent for crucial investments in STEM. There are enhancements for some of our scholarship programs e.g. the "Bright Flight" Boost and a number of other one-time initiatives. The House Appropriations Education Committee came out with their own recommendations. They don't quite match what the Governor has talked about. They recommended the five percent on core based on performance funding, \$5.2 million for STEM described as \$220,000 maximum for every community college and institution. The University of Missouri System may count as one institution. Twelve million for "Bright Flight" Boost, another million for Innovation Campus, and funds for the College Advising Board.

There are discussions for bonding for capital improvements on the university campuses, specifically renovations. We're pushing the 50/50 match program. The project we have on there is a new building at the Experimental Mine.

Chancellor Schrader had the opportunity to meet with U. S. Senator Roy Blunt. He is very interested in our recently announced signature area. She hopes they can work together in the area of advanced manufacturing. He introduced bi-partisan legislation that would expand advanced manufacturing centers nationwide. He did that in conjunction with Terry Brewer from Brewer Science. Senator Blunt is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and he is the Ranking Republican on the Commerce Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security. He has interest as well with our other signature area, advanced materials for sustainable infrastructure.

Last month we hosted Missouri Department of Economic Development Director, Mike Downing to discuss S&T's role in advancing the state's economic development mission. The signature areas that were selected aligned quite well with the priorities for the state and critical needs nationally.

President Wolfe visited our campus last week. We shared progress on our strategic planning. More than half of our levers have at least one action that has been completed. We've completed about ten percent of the actions overall in a six month period. The President shared that we are number one in the strategic planning and the progress that we've made. He was impressed with the unit and department performance measures and comparators and also with the unit and department strategic plan. He asked for examples to take with him. We also set the stage for some of the strategic initiative proposals that we're considering moving forward this coming year. The President did provide some frank feedback on several areas that are helping us redefine our plan and our proposals. They did a tour to the radio stations while the President was here so he could talk about the Show Me Value Tour. For the KMST interview you may go to KMST.org and click on the local programs February 14th link.

The final topic Chancellor Schrader discussed was laboratory improvement. We received eleven proposals to upgrade our S&T instructional laboratories. They were very strong. They were compelling and they would have a great impact on our student outcomes. Chancellor Schrader thanked everyone for their interest and for their work in putting together some very exciting proposals. That was one of our strategic proposals last year that was funded five hundred thousand dollars from the strategic initiative fund, matched dollar for dollar by gifts or grant. An announcement will be sent out soon about the funding.

ii. Provost Wray

Before beginning his report, Provost Wray gave compliments to all of the academic departments for the departments' strategic plans. Since January 17th he has read thirty-one strategic plans from each of the units within the Academic Affairs unit.

Provost Wray reported on the Office of Undergraduate Studies and Office of Sponsored Programs.

Congratulations to Yiyu Shi for his NSF CAREER award. That is the second CAREER award along with the Air Force Young Investigator Program award that we have gotten here in the last six weeks.

He then reported on the Curtis Laws Wilson Library, Enrollment Management, and Office of Graduate Studies.

Provost Wray's final topic was Global Learning. He mentioned that the U. S. News and World Report noted that among all the national distance learning programs, our engineering degree program was ranked number seventeen nationally and our IT competing degree program was ranked eighth in the country.

Details may be found at the following link:

http://facultysenate.mst.edu/media/campusupport/facultysenate/document/s/provost/2014/Feb_2014_Provost_Positive_Happenings_FINAL_2.ppt

C. Staff Council Report – Nathan Weaver

Staff Council was once again involved in the GRACE pickup of canned goods. The Chancellor was also involved and some Staff Council members picked up more canned good at her holiday party.

Staff Council is still trying to find more opportunities and create more opportunities for professional development on campus for staff. They have been discussing this with HR, the Chancellor, and Communications. They are looking at possibly bringing in a keynote speaker for Staff Day. This year's Staff Day will have a sports theme.

June 7th will be S&T night at the Springfield Cardinals. Tickets will be available at a discounted price at the Leach Theatre box office. Our Chancellor will be throwing the first pitch. In conjunction with this, the Springfield Chamber of Commerce has contacted the Staff Council and would like to have some sort of collaboration the first week of March. No details at this time.

D. Student Council – Ashley Koesterer

Ashley discussed a resolution supported by Student Council, a bill adding gender identity/expression to the non-discrimination policy. The S&T Student Council, along with their sister schools, would like to change the UM statement regarding the non-discrimination portion. They would like to add gender identity and gender expression into the UM statement.

February 24th is the start of the voting process for the Student Body Presidential elections. It will begin at 8:00 AM on Monday and close at 4:00 PM on Friday, the 28th. A mass email will be sent out to the campus once the incoming President has been elected. This is the first year that this will be done through OrgSync.

A representative of Claire McCaskill has contacted Ashley regarding tuition and student loans for our campus and Missouri campuses. She will be speaking with

them next week. Last fall Ashley was involved in a campaign called Fix the Debt. She is going to touch on that again in regard to how our government needs to spend money more wisely than they currently do.

Details may be found at the following link:

http://facultysenate.mst.edu/media/campussupport/facultysenate/documents/studentcouncil/2014/Faculty_Senate_2_18_14_Koesterer.pptx

E. Council of Graduate Students – Krista Limmer

Krista reported on the Ignite Rolla event which will take place on February 26th at 6:00 PM. Tickets are free, but limited to 100 attendees. There are thirteen speakers with a combination of 12 and 6 minute talks.

Details may be found at the following link:

http://facultysenate.mst.edu/media/campussupport/facultysenate/documents/cgs/2013/Feb_2014_Faculty_Senate.pptx

IV. Betsy Rodriguez (Vice President Human Resources, UM System)

Betsy was glad that the topic of gender identity and gender expression and been brought up. She recommended reaching out to the Staff Council members to assist with this.

One of the longer term projects Betsy has worked on was the entirely new staff title and compensation structure. It is intended to be more flexible but more consistent. Most importantly for the staff, it provides a career path. We have 8000 staff across the System and 4000 unique titles. They are now down to 725 titles. It was the work of the campus HR people along with a consultant. They have been working on this for four years. This included seven systems: Hospital, four campuses, System, and Extension. That is all coming to an end April 1st and they are implementing it into the HR system. We have already been operating in it for the last year or so. If you have any questions regarding this, you may contact Shenethia Manuel in the HR office.

The second biggest project Betsy has been working on has to do with benefits. She has a task force that is made up of faculty and staff from all of the campuses. In addition to people that had worked with benefits before, they requested people that did not know anything about benefits but are a productive part of the campus. The cost for benefits keeps increasing; however, you are paying for the same benefits. It has increased twice as much for medical as it was ten years ago, but it is the same plan you had ten years ago. That has to do mostly with what is going on around the country with health care costs in general. It also has something to do with the fact that we have an aging population at the university and, unfortunately, a somewhat unhealthy population. The whole package is being taken into consideration; what we spend on benefits and are we spending it in the right way. It is not about reducing the spend, it's about how to better manage it and maybe make it more flexible so that people who are in very different places in their lives can have a little bit more flexibility. That project has been going on about nine months.

The task force is about finished. They have one more meeting to talk about one more topic. Then they will be presenting to the General Officers. Chancellor Schrader, the Provost, and a few others will be there. The task force will be presenting their recommendations and asking for feedback. In April Betsy will be going before the Board and sharing the results of their study. It is not intended for the Board to vote or for any changes to occur right away. The purpose of it is to start conversations across the campuses about what they found, what they are recommending, and how they feel about it. There will be very broad recommendations and lots of time for input.

Some discussion ensued.

[Dr. Fitch presented Betsy Rodriguez with a gift](#) on behalf of the Faculty Senate.

V. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

A. Rules, Procedures and Agenda – S. N. Balakrishnan

Dr. Balakrishnan reported on the following two referrals:

Referral 1:

RP&A refers to the Tenure committee consideration of issues of propriety in the P&T process.

- a) *Should there be information provided to P&T committees at all levels on best practices, guidelines, or even training, and if so what materials should be provided/used?*
- b) *Should there be penalties and a process for faculty who flagrantly violate confidentiality or otherwise inappropriately attempt to affect the process?*

Referral 2:

Experiential learning (info shared by VPUS) to AF&S asking their opinion about standards.

Motion that the Academic Freedoms and Standards (AF&S) Committee consider the CCC document that describes the implementation-related issues on experiential learning was passed.

Dr. Balakrishnan then reported on the disparity in description of B.A. and B.S. standards in the catalog. RP&A proposed the following:

CCC will develop a draft set of standards for the B.S. degrees and present to RP&A for subsequent referral to the AF&S for consideration.

He concluded his report with the following:

The RP&A committee formed an adhoc bylaws committee consisting of Martin Bohner, Mark Fitch, and Daniel Tauritz to review any necessary changes to the bylaws regarding bringing back deans and that all standing committees are to report back to the ad hoc committee on any implications of bringing back the deans that they see in the purview of their committees.

At this point Dr. Balakrishnan turned it over to Dr. Fitch for further comments. The coordination for transition to the deans is being handled through the Provost's office. There is a steering committee and a number of committees that are, under the Collected Rules and Regulations, responsible for the academic matters as the general faculty and the Faculty Senate. Therefore, any changes that require policy changes and rules changes should come through them. Each of the committees has a different area and they would ask, particularly of the committee chairs, to ponder with the committee what changes need to be made with respect to the bylaws, but also with respect to the deans. Mark Fitch is the representative for academics and Tom Schuman is the representative for non-academics.

Details may be found at the following link:

http://facultysenate.mst.edu/media/campusupport/facultysenate/documents/rpa/reports/2014/RPA_slides_for_september_19_2013.pptx

B. Curricula – Daniel Tauritz

The Campus Curricula Committee moves for the approval of the report's CC forms. This includes 26 Course Change (CC) forms, and 1 Experimental Course (EC) form (*informational only*).

The motion passes unanimously.

Details may be found at the following link:

[Curricula.Report.FS.02.20.14](#)

[Curricula.Slides.FS.02.20.14](#)

C. ITCC

Dr. Vojta reported on personal backups, an update on data center consolidation, a new campus license for Adobe, and the September 2014 Research Technology Day.

He concluded by reporting on file system increased storage space, further IT updates, Learning Management Systems/Blackboard, and the Faculty Accomplishment System.

Some discussion ensued.

Details may be found at the following link:

http://facultysenate.mst.edu/media/campussupport/facultysenate/documents/itcc/2014/ITCC_Report_Feb2014.pptx

VI. Old Business

A. Report on Current Referrals and Actionable Items

No report

B. Common Exams Motion

Postponed motion from Student Affairs Committee:

“1. The period from 5:00 – 6:00 PM daily be reserved for common exams.

2. If a class or other required academic activity is scheduled during common exam time, the instructor of the class that conflicts with the common exam will provide accommodations for the students taking the common exam.”

The motion which had been made was open for discussion.

Dr. Haynes proposed the following amendment:

If a class or other required academic activity is scheduled during common exam time, the instructor of the class that conflicts with the common exam time will provide accommodations for the students taking the common exam. In all other instances of common exams, the instructor administering the exam is expected to provide reasonable accommodations to students with conflicts.

Motion receives a second.

Amendment passes with no opposition.

Lengthy discussion ensued.

Dr. Haynes makes a second amendment adding the word such before the final word in the previous amendment.

The last line of the amendment will now read:

In all other instances of common exams, the instructor administering the exam is expected to provide reasonable accommodations to students with *such* conflicts.

Motion receives a second.

Revised amendment passes with no opposition.

More discussion followed.

Dr. Tauritz makes a motion to modify the amendment to state:
In all instances of common exams *not at the designated time*,

Motion receives a second.

Motion passes.

Further discussion ensues.

A motion is made to add the word common so it will now read:
In all instances of common exams not at the designated time, the instructor administering the *common* exam is expected to provide reasonable accommodations to students with such conflicts.

Motion passes.

Lance Haynes makes a motion to strike the word other from the line:
In all *other* instances of common exams.

Motion receives a second.

Motion passes.

Further discussion.

A motion is made to change the time from 6:00 to 6:15.

Motion receives a second.

Dr. Haynes speaks in opposition.

Discussion follows.

The nays have it. A request is made for a show of hands.

Hands counted. The nays have it.

The final motion on the floor is:

1. The period from 5:00 – 6:00 PM daily be designated for common exams.
2. If a class or other required academic activity is scheduled during common exam time, the instructor of the class that conflicts with the common exam will provide accommodations for the students taking the common exam.
3. In all instances of common exams not at the designated time, the instructor administering the common exam is expected to provide reasonable accommodations to students with such conflicts.

Final motion passes with no opposition.

Details may be found at the following link:

http://facultysenate.mst.edu/media/campusupport/facultysenate/documents/presidentreports/2014/FS_Slides_Feb_2014_Old_business_proper.pptx

VII. New Business and Announcements

None.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Mormile, Secretary