

**Volume XVIII, Number 2**  
**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**October 19, 2023**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by President Dr. KC Dolan at 2:00 PM. Roll was called by President Elect Dr. Dave Westenberg on behalf of Secretary Paul Runnion. Those whose names are grayed out below were absent.

Lana Alagha, Venkat Allada, Stuart Baur, Matthew Burmeister, Devin Burns, Jeff Cawlfeld, Amitava Choudhury, Steve Corns, Kathryn C. Dolan, William Fahrenholtz, Darin Finke, Daniel Fisher, Mark Fitch, Julie Alexander (for Mary Gillis), Michael Gosnell, Mike Hilgers, Kelly Homan, Wenqing Hu, Ali Hurson, Kurt Kosbar, Umit Koylu, K. Krishnamurthy, Alanna Krolikowski, Bih-Ru Lea, Kelly Liu, Ashok Midha, Eun Soo Park, Jorge Porcel, Melissa Ringhausen, Paul Runnion, Chaman Sabharwal, Rachel Schneider, William Schonberg, Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani, Jeff Smith, Lia Sotiriou-Leventis, Shoaib Usman, Jee Ching Wang, David Westenberg, Derek Williamson, Alexey Yamilov, Maciej Zawodniok

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 21, 2023 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes.

*Motion passes.*

**III. President's Report**

Faculty Senate President Dr. KC Dolan reported on the Intercampus Faculty Cabinet (IFC) meeting held via Zoom on October 2, 2023. She highlighted funding for FY23-24 projects at S&T including Mining and Refining of Critical Minerals and the Manufacturing Innovation Center. Rankings were also discussed, including S&T's recent ranking as the #5 Best College for Engineering Majors by Money Magazine.

Other topics at IFC involved enrollment and funding trends, emergency and disaster preparedness, library resources, systemwide shared governance issues, and IT issues (including software procurement).

The next IFC meeting will be November 8 in Columbia.

President Dolan also discussed a pending proposal to transition librarians to NTT faculty. This is a three step process:

1. Librarians decide if they want to change to NTT faculty (they do)
2. Faculty Senate votes
3. The Chancellor approves

The other three schools in the UM System already categorize librarians as NTT faculty, which helps with promotions and benefits. The current goal is to present the formal proposal and vote at the November 16, 2023 Faculty Senate meeting.

Questions centered around potential implications of the transition of librarians to NTT status, including how their promotion process would be handled.

#### **IV. Campus Reports**

##### **A. Staff Council**

No report

##### **B. Student Council**

Markus Baur presented on behalf of Sammi Young, who was away at a conference. There is some overage in the student council budget from last year, and options for a capital project are being pursued. They are also surveying students regarding tutoring services, and are developing a survey regarding space management.

##### **C. Council of Graduate Students**

No report

#### **V. Special Topic – Kummer Institute**

Dr. Steve Roberts presented on the Kummer Institute mandate, including its initial and current financial state. He referenced endowed faculty supported by the institute and other research initiatives. He discussed data surrounding the Kummer Vanguard Scholars program for undergraduates, emphasizing the impact on Pell, underrepresented minority, and first-generation students. Various K-12 outreach initiatives were also discussed. Individuals were encouraged to get involved with Kummer initiatives, including via financial donations.

#### **VI. Reports of Standing Committees**

##### **A. Campus Curricula (CC)**

Dr. Petra DeWitt presented for the CC. The CC met on September 26, 2023 and reviewed 4 course change forms (CC forms), 10 Program Change Forms (PC forms), and 5 Experimental Course forms (EC forms).

The CC moves that Faculty Senate approve the 4 CC forms and 10 PC forms.

*Motion passes.*

## **B. Committee for Effective Teaching (CET)**

Dr. Devin Burns gave a lengthy presentation, including two motions, for the CET. Prior to introducing the motions, Dr. Burns noted that there is already a UM system-wide requirement that instructors teaching online courses be certified to do so prior to teaching online but that there is no official campus policy in this regard. This UM system policy requires that all primary instructors (faculty, adjunct, graduate TA) be certified and that recertification must occur every five years, and this policy is driven by online program rankings.

Dr. Burns presented the first motion on behalf of CET:

The Committee for Effective Teaching proposes that all instructors of online courses (including "distance" courses) complete the UM System (Missouri Online) or ACUE Online Teaching Certification by May 1, 2024. If an instructor has been teaching online for three years, that person can do the recertification instead. All new instructors of online courses need to be certified before the course begins, unless it is their first semester teaching at S&T. We strongly recommend providing additional compensation to adjuncts to cover this training.

Questions and comments addressed the alignment and differences between this motion and the system policy, the May 1, 2024 date, the necessity of this motion given existing system requirements, the acceptance of ACUE certification, the designation of which courses require certification, the relevance of the training to our faculty and courses, the source of funding for the additional compensation for adjuncts, the timing of the trainings relative to the May 1 deadline, and the enforcement of the policy.

A friendly amendment was made to the motion and accepted. The amended motion (changes underlined) reads as follows:

The Committee for Effective Teaching proposes that all instructors of online courses (including "distance" courses) complete the UM System (Missouri Online) or ACUE Online Teaching Certification by June 1, 2024. If an instructor has been teaching online for three years, that person can do the recertification instead. All new instructors of online courses need to be certified before the course begins, unless it is their first semester teaching at S&T. We strongly recommend providing additional compensation to adjuncts to cover this training.

Voting on the amended motion was done by show of hands.

*Motion fails.*

Dr. Burns presented the second motion on behalf of CET:

To support continuous improvement in course design and maintain compliance with the

UM System (Missouri Online) requirements, the Committee for Effective Teaching proposes that Missouri S&T requires a five-year cycle of Quality Course Review for online courses. This applies only to fully online, asynchronous courses (not “distance” courses). Courses will be reviewed by two Instructional Designers from Missouri Online, who are not involved in the development and teaching of the course they review, but are trained to evaluate courses using the System’s quality standards.

Questions and comments addressed the position and qualification of the reviewers (particularly whether the reviewers will be and/or should be faculty) and precisely what would be reviewed.

A friendly amendment was made to the motion and accepted. The amended motion (changes underlined) reads as follows:

To support continuous improvement in course design and maintain compliance with the UM System (Missouri Online) requirements, the Committee for Effective Teaching proposes that Missouri S&T requires a five-year cycle of Quality Course Review for online courses. This applies only to fully online, asynchronous courses (not “distance” courses). Courses will be reviewed by two Instructional Designers or faculty peer reviewers, who are not involved in the development and teaching of the course they review, but are trained to evaluate course design and usability using the system’s standards.

Voting on the amended motion was done by show of hands.

*Motion passes.*

**C. Information Technology and Computing (ITCC)**

No report

**D. Budgetary Affairs**

Dr. Mark Fitch presented on behalf of Budgetary Affairs. He presented data in response to a referral regarding the changes in the NTT/TT faculty count over time. He also presented data about trends in research funding and expenditures, an update on the FY24 budget, and information about current and recent building costs (including \$4.28 million in internal operating funds spent on the University Drive roundabout project).

**E. Personnel**

Dr. Dave Westenberg presented on behalf of personnel regarding proposed changes to the NTT promotion policy. These changes are designed to better align the NTT promotion process with the T/TT process, clarify the timeline, incorporate the Kummer College into the process, and address the composition of the campus review committee.

Dr. Westenberg also presented qualitative results of the annual faculty and staff climate survey, including comparison to the prior year results.

**F. Public Occasions**

Dr. Steven Corns presented on behalf of Public Occasions with two motions. The Public Occasions Committee presented a 2026-2027 calendar and moved that it be adopted. It was pointed out that Summer 2027 was scheduled to begin on Memorial Day. The motion was amended to include only Fall 2026 and Spring 2027.

*Motion passes.*

(Summer 2027 will be brought back in corrected form next month.)

Public Occasions also moved that we move the 2024 Fall Break by one week to accommodate athletic events. The new dates would be October 10-13, 2024.

*Motion passes.*

**VII. Unfinished Business**

None

**VIII. New Business**

None

**IX. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul N. Runnion, Secretary