Volume XIX, Number 4
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
30 January 2025

1. **Call to Order:** 2:00 PM by D. Westenberg
2. **Roll Call**   J. Schlegel
   a. Present: L. Alagha (online), V. Allada (online), S. Baur (online), A. Belfi (proxy), S. Corns, K. Dolan, W. Fahrenholtz (proxy), D. Finke, D. Fischer, M. Gosnell, S. Hercula (online), M. Hilgers (proxy), W. Hu, A. Hurson, B. Kania-Goche, K. Krishnamurthy, A. Krolikowski, B. Lea, K. Liu, J. Mauer (online), W. Meeks, E. Park, J. Porcel (proxy), M. Ringhausen (online), P. Runnion, C. Sabharwal (online), W. Schonberg (online), S. Sedigh Sarvestani, P. Shamsi, L. Sotiriou-Leventis (online), S. Usman (proxy), J. Wang (online), D. Westenberg, A. Yamilov (online), and M. Zawodniok.
   b. Absent: J. Burken, K. Homan, U. Koylu, B. Weir, H. Wen, J. Winiarz, and D. Williamson.
3. **Consent Agenda**: Approved by unanimous consent   D. Westenberg
4. **President's Report**   D. Westenberg
   a. IFC on 27 January: Discussed federal funding impacts, DEI scrutiny, and potential bills affecting academic freedom.
      i. **HR Improvements:** HR is working on an improved process for courtesy appointments.
      ii. **UM System Financials:** High-level update provided.
   b. **Campus matters**
      i. **Provost Search Committee:** open forums on 31 January.
      ii. **Listening sessions:** to be scheduled.
      iii. **Topics from campus leadership meetings**: student course information, capital projects updates, advising website development, and AI in education. Visit minermomentum.mst.edu for more information.
      iv. **Shared governance:** summit scheduled for 27 February.
      v. **Graduate catalog**: process updates under discussion with Graduate Faculty.
      vi. **Bylaw revisions:** ad hoc committee being formed.
   c. **Active Referrals:** Budget issues and concerns (BAC), Teaching improvement plan concerns (Personnel), NTT promotion policy (Personnel), Tenure clock and scholarship diversity (Tenure & Promotion), Waitlists and room capacity (ad hoc)
   d. **Some good news:** S&T received a $28.5M Tech Hub award, New faculty/staff gathering space opening on 11 February, Mental well-being awareness week is 10-14 February, Faculty/staff appreciation day is 1 February, Women's basketball is having their best start in over 10 years, and men's basketball is ranked #5.
   e. **Be involved, be engaged, do something**
      i. **Please fill out the ADVANCE surveys sent to your email;** they provide important data for leadership to understand what's going on around campus.
5. **Campus Reports**
   a. **Staff Council**   K. Walkup

i. **Chancellor's Brunch:** Will be the first week of December next year.

ii. **Staff Appreciation Week:** The week of May 19, planning is ongoing.

b. **Student Council**   M. De La Hunt

- **Updates:** Fee change bill and referendum brought before student council on 28 January, Dean's list certificate issue is resolved and paper copies will be available on request, Continuing to pay attention to university operations based on 'say anything' responses.

- **Student referendum and study body president election:** packets are available until Monday, must be filed by 7 February. Debate will be 20 February at 5pm. Voting will take place 3-7 March.

- **Spring focus:** Mental health initiatives including training for student organization officers and potential peer support requirements, Preparation of presentations to administration and faculty on academic information availability as students could benefit from more detailed course information when registering, student leader awards banquet is hoping to return to pre-COVID quality, please contact M. DeLaHunt if your department has a student award you would like announced at the banquet.

ii. **New advisor:** is William Smith, Director for Inclusion and Engagement. The student council vice president of Engagement and Outreach position is vacant, and there are vacant positions in the Student Involvement Office. The business support contact is Jeanette Waters.

c. **Council of Graduate Students:** No report

6. **Special Topics**

a. **Test-Optional Admissions**   D. Spivey

i. The test-optional admissions process and rationale were described, including land-grant mission. Most peer universities have already adopted or are considering test-optional admissions. Data from the past four years shows no significant high school GPA difference between students with and without test scores, but retention rates and first-year college GPAs were slightly lower for those without test scores. Emphasis on improvements to the institution's comprehensive evaluation process and increased support services improving retention rates.

ii. A vote on continuing the process will take place at the next Faculty Senate meeting. The vote is advisory as the decision is made by the Curators. Academic Freedom and Standards will review the data and make a recommendation prior to the vote.

b. **IT Vision**   B. Robbins

i. **Acquisition Delays**: due to lack of strategic planning, outdated technology, and cultural issues. There are concerns over security breaches, and the BPM12004 approval process causing delays. Immediate changes include streamlined click-through agreements and the use of an industry-standard security evaluation. Medium-term efforts involve overhauling the ticketing request tool and reallocating staff to relieve shortfalls. Long-term plans include analyzing IT processes through Six Sigma.

ii. **Elevated (admin) access:** Ongoing issues with elevated access requests. Immediate changes include packaging software for installation through Apps Anywhere and encouraging the use

of the virtual desktop. Extended enrollment periods and unlimited uses for elevated access requests are being implemented to balance convenience and risk. Plans include the use of security pods and implementation of Privileged Access Management software.

7. **Reports of Standing Committees**

a. **Administrative Review** K. Erickson

   i. Reviewed the list of administrators to be evaluated and timeline. The questionnaire for the various administrators was presented to the Faculty Senate. There is some uncertainty in the questions for Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives. Some discussion led to minor revisions.

b. **Budgetary Affairs** B. Lea

   i. **Referral on budget impact of Stellic advising software:** Onboarding cost is approx. $240k with ongoing costs of approx. $134k, but three software packages are being sunset with approx. $95k in savings. Net increase in annual costs is approx. $38.5k, but Stellic also has capabilities that our current software does not.

   ii. **Referral on UMSL Engineering:** They received an $8M grant. No new engineering degrees will be offered. Analysis of potential financial impact due to competition for student enrollment is needed.

   iii. **Referral on the campus bookstore:** The committee has issued a RFP to see if other servicers can provide more cost-effective than the Mizzou store leadership. The process will unfold over the next 3 months.

   iv. **Referral on IT:** CIO presented network modernization plan with an estimated cost of approx. $13M. Collaboration with S&T leadership, Advancement, VCFO, OSP, and research centers to integrate IT modernization into strategic planning and secure funding.

   v. **Referral on budget impact of FTC student discounts:** Data on net tuition per student and overall trends in net tuition across campuses was presented.

   vi. **Financial Position update:** VCFO will provide updates on the strategic budget allocation at the 12 February BAC meeting and share information on salary trends for faculty and administrators. An update to the budget planning process is scheduled for the 27 February Faculty Senate meeting. Discussions are ongoing regarding the budget reporting format. Additional discussion of application trends for the upcoming academic year was also presented.

   vii. All topics or questions submitted to BAC by 10 February will be reviewed at the 12 February BAC meeting.

c. **Campus Curricula** P. DeWitt

   i. HLC mandate for visible general education program, also required by MO Senate Bill 997 (CORE 42 transfer curriculum) to be implemented within the next year or two. Discussion on current and proposed policies and effects of the proposed changes.

d. **Personnel** D. Westenberg

   i. **Topics being considered:** referral on teaching improvement plans, referral on changes in workload assignments without consultation, appointing an ad hoc committee to revise

NTT promotion guidelines, appointing an ad hoc committee to explore merit raise guidelines for staff.

    ii. **Referral on teaching improvement plans:** Received optional for chairs to develop improvement plans and proposed revisions. Focused on creating a dialogue around improvement rather than punishment, improving flexibility, and clarifying expectations. Feedback is requested.

  e. **Public Occasions**   A. Behrendt

    i. Registrar requested support to start fall semester on the 3rd Monday of August. Initial approval by POC rescinded following President Choi's recommendation.

8. **Unfinished Business**: None   D. Westenberg

9. **New Business:** None   D. Westenberg

10. **Q&A With Provost**   C. Potts

  a. **Additional context for student registration:** Information on expected workload and class structure is only available after they register but would be useful in scheduling courses. Information will be available through a portal behind SSO login. A team is being assembled to advise the project. The goal is not to create any new documents or content, just make some existing content available.

    i. This will be a consulting effort. There may be minimal IT costs, but HR costs are not expected.

    ii. Discussion on using Canvas for publishing information. Several concerns were raised.

    iii. Faculty are being invited to participate, no additional information will be considered mandatory.

  b. **Recent executive orders:** accessibility for disabled students has been swept up in the debate over DEI. We are proceeding as if ADA is in force, and we are liable if we do not provide accommodation. We also remain obligated to enforce other federal regulations.

11. **Announcements**   D. Westenberg

12. **Adjourn:** 4:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Schlegel
Secretary | Faculty Senate