

Chancellor's Report on June 18, 2009 Faculty Senate meeting

Chancellor Carney received the Accreditation Report from the Higher Learning Commission and the results were good. The team was impressed with the quality of students, highly qualified faculty, supporting staff, and programs that are in place to manage the institution. Faculty members are highly productive. The Missouri S&T Mission Statement clearly distinguishes S&T from the other universities in the area. Quality and diversity of student body has been significantly enhanced since the last comprehensive visit. The Commission reported that S&T launched a successful fund raising campaign, and witnessed significant growth in student enrollment, and rise in ranking among technological universities. During its three day visit, the team found remarkable consistency between the observations of the team and the observations and findings about the institution included in the self study report. The report was objective, comprehensive and provided a realistic picture of the nature and character of Missouri S&T. These were just a few of the overall observations from the team. An assessment report will be due in two years but Missouri S&T received the full ten year accreditation.

A General Officers Retreat was held on campus June 15-16, 2009. Tax revenues are down and if the economy doesn't recover we are headed for a tough period in a year or two. The hiring freeze is still in effect and President Forsee is implementing procedures to keep spending under control. We are expected to receive the same level of funding for fiscal year 2010 as in the previous year.

Chancellor Carney met with Governor Jay Nixon and reiterated his view that the governor should consider public higher education one of the top priorities of his administration. The governor is planning to reintroduce the *Access Missouri* issue in the Legislative Assembly next session. *Access Missouri* is a program that provides \$100M dollars in need-based financial aid. More than one-half of the funds allocated for student financial aid are going to private higher educational institutions because of the tremendous influence exerted by some legislators. This is an unfair distribution considering that only a third of the students enrolled in higher education are in private institutions, resulting in one-third of the students getting more than half of the funds. Chancellor Carney thinks we will win this battle next time and that will mean approximately \$800 average increase in financial aid for our students.

The Governor is also going to push for bonding on capital projects. The State of Missouri has paid off previous bonds that were issued about twenty five years ago. The State could issue \$700 to \$800 million new bonds ; this will replace the bonds that have been paid off. If the citizens of Missouri approve the bond issues, this would help Missouri S&T with building projects such as for Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, and Biological Sciences.

Dr. Carney provided information about leveraging *e-learning* technology that he presented at the retreat. President Forsee commissioned a task force to investigate the current status of distance education and the recommendations have led to the creation of a system wide *e-learning*

initiative focusing on asynchronous internet delivery. The UM System will provide resources to get this moving. Statistics show that of the 17.9 M students in colleges and universities, almost 4M were enrolled in an on-line course this past year. That represents roughly 20% of Higher Education students, and the growth has been approximately 13-15% every year.

Chancellor Carney listed the potential opportunities for the University of Missouri system by doing more in this area.

- It could potentially support enrollments greater than the physical plant capacity of the institution.
- It could improve student access to programs by increasing service to non-traditional and non-resident students.
- It could improve student achievement by providing flexible, customizable access to learning.
- It could reduce cost of delivery of instruction through the use of self-paced, less faculty-intensive instruction, thus freeing up faculty time and potentially institutional resources.
- It could improve student retention and increase degree completion statistics.

The Alliance for Higher Education Competiveness asked twenty-one institutions for their insights into successful online learning. The top ingredients for success are the following:

- Executive leadership
- Faculty and academic leadership commitment
- Student services
- Having technology infrastructure in place and running smoothly
- Course instruction and quality
- Financial support
- Instructor training
- Having instructional design support and faculty development programs
- Having infrastructure where online students can receive services
- Building consensus on policies and best practices
- Open communication

This may not happen next fall but the University System is moving fast in this direction.

President Forsee was on campus June 9, 2009, and has promised to visit each campus at least four times a year. He wants to interact with faculty, staff, and students as much as possible.