

Volume I, Number 1
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
January 17, 2008

I. Call to Order, Roll, and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 13:30 by President Frank Blum and roll was taken. The following absentees were noted: Stanley Woronick, Yue-wen Huang, Ronaldo Luna, Kurt Kosbar, Mohamed Abdelsalam, S.N. Balakrishnan, Bill DeMalade, Paul Worsey, and Gary Mueller.

II. Moment of Silence for Dr. Gary Thomas

III. Approval of November 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of November 15, 2007 were approved as submitted.

IV. Campus Reports and Responses

a. President Report – Frank Blum

The Board of Curators approved the revised Faculty Bylaws and some Collected Rules and Regulations at the November 30, 2007 meeting in Kansas City. The revisions were required so that Missouri S&T could operate without Schools, Colleges, and Academic Deans.

January 17, 2008 was the first meeting of the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate of Missouri S&T replaces the Academic Council of the University of Missouri-Rolla in the revised Faculty Bylaws. In celebration of the past and future, the Faculty Senate officers have invited the past Academic Council presidents to a dinner and celebration to be held at Zeno's on January 30, 2008 at 6:00 PM.

Many faculty have complained that there seems to be a significant increase in the number of students committing plagiarism in recent years. MST needs to explore ways that we can develop a common set of ethical standards for the students and reduce the number of plagiarism problems. Blum will ask RP&A to make a referral to the appropriate committee.

There has also been concern expressed by several faculty that the university has experienced significant grade inflation in recent years. Blum will ask RP&A to investigate the grade inflation issues, and if appropriate, make a referral to the appropriate committee.

This is the beginning of the Legislative season. The Governor has proposed a 4.2% increase for higher education plus some funds for targeted programs. UM employees need to continue to discuss the levels of university funding with members of the legislature.

The Faculty Senate will start posting standing committee meetings and agenda on our webpage.

Other items sent to committees, or discussed by RP&A this month included methods to improve faculty advising, reporting dropped students to faculty, emergency preparedness, computing privacy policy, student complaints of faculty procedures, need for publicizing the campus plan to faculty, and reporting of faculty and administrative salary increases. Academic Freedom and Standards has been asked to review processes related to handling student complaints.

The Governmental Affairs committee reported that the Governor has requested a 4.4% increase to higher education for Missouri.

Details can be found at the following link:

<http://faculty senate.mst.edu/documents/President.Report.01.17.08.pdf>

b. Administrative Report – Provost Wray for Chancellor J.F. Carney III

On January 15 the campus was visited by 31 members of the Missouri House of Representatives. Gary Forsee, who is President Elect of UM System, was here with the legislators and will be back on campus before he takes the position formally on February 18th. Mr. Forsee is a 1972 Civil Engineering graduate of UMR. Cheryl Walker, who is a 1986 Electrical Engineering graduate of UMR, is Chair of Board of Curators. The Board of Curators' will be meeting at our campus on April 3 and 4 and has asked to have a joint meeting of the Board of Trustees' at that time.

Commencement this May will be the first commencement for Missouri S&T. William Wolf, who just completed 2 terms as President of the National Academy of Engineers will be our commencement speaker.

GE Aviation, which is a top 50 corporation, has established a development center on campus. The development center will provide opportunities for collaboration with the university, and employment opportunities for the community and our students.

MoDot will be installing the Missouri S&T signs on I-44 by the end of February. A photograph of the sign is shown in the link below.

The Advancing Excellence Campaign is still on track with 132 million.

Details can be found at the following links:

<http://faculty senate.mst.edu/documents/CarneyFS.Report.01.17.08.pdf>

<http://faculty senate.mst.edu/documents/CarneyFS.HighwaySign.01.17.08.ppt>

c. Administrative Report – Provost W.K. Wray

Provost Wray gave reports on the offices of Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, School of Extended Learning, Graduate Studies, Sponsored Programs, and Undergraduate Studies.

Academic Affairs: Necessary changes to the Collected Rules and Regulations have been made and approved by the Board of Curators. The Development office will continue to work with the department chairs to develop departmental stories to use with potential donors. The Corporate Relations Team continues to meet to position the university for comprehensive relationships (hiring, research and philanthropy) with out top 50 corporate partners. A proposed policy has been developed for non-tenure track faculty positions. A task force has been organized to address Senate Bill 389. Third year review packages have been developed and sent to the chairs who have faculty coming up for review this year.

Enrollment Management: Freshman applications and admissions are up a few percent over this time last year. Transfer applications and admissions are up 14% to 22% over this time last year. Graduate applications are up 23% over this time last year.

Office of Sponsored Programs: The number of proposals awarded, the total dollar amount, the research expenditures, and the F&A recovery are all up for this year over last year.

Details can be found at the following link:

<http://facultysenate.mst.edu/documents/DrWray.FS.Report.01.17.08.ppt>

d. Staff Council Report – No Report

e. Student Council – Andrew Ronchetto for Beth Groenke

The student leadership conference, which is called Making Change the Constant: Developing Dynamic Leaders will be held on January 26 and the keynote speaker will be Cheryl Walker. Student compensation Ad-Hoc committee will be looking at compensation rates at Missouri S&T and comparing it to other Institutions.

f. Council of Grad. Students – R. K. Singh

New Reps Elections will open on February 6. Executive Board Elections will open on March 5. Graduate Studies Week will be on the week of April 14 and the officers will be working with the Office of Graduate Studies.

V. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

a. Curricula Committee – Keith Nisbett

1 NC Report (Departmental name change), 4 DC Reports, 37 CC Reports, and 9 EC Reports (For information)

Details can be found at the following link:

<http://facultysenate.mst.edu/documents/Curricula.12.07and.01.08.pdf>

A motion to approve the submitted forms posted on the web was passed unanimously.

b. Rules, Procedure and Agenda – Eun Soo Park for Kurt Kosbar

RP&A noticed that some departments were inconsistent with the number of representation on FS. RP&A has decided that departments with over representation will be allowed to keep their representatives thru July, 2008. Departments with under representation will be invited to add representatives immediately.

c. Budgetary Affairs – R. Brow

AC0708ref-5 Salary Distribution Reporting. Action to date: Received departmental S&W information for past five years, received initial “system-wide” raise information; awaiting breakdown by position, and report being prepared on 2007 salary decision timeline, with recommendations for 2008. Other requests: SRI reallocation policy, ‘endowment tax’ policy and ‘panel of peers’ representation.

d. SB 389 Task Force – L. Haynes

Where feasible, each institution shall post on its website instructor ratings by students except that no institution shall be required to post any item the publication of which would constitute a violation of state or federal law.

VI. Old Business

a. Report on Current Referrals and Actionable Items

ITCC Computing Privacy Policy, Ad-hoc Intellectual Property, Attendance Policy, Posting of Faculty Information as Required by SB389, Monitoring of Tenure Procedures, Salary Distribution Reporting, and Campus NTT Policies.

b. New Referrals

FS0708ref-1 Procedures for dealing with student complaints (AF&S, SA)
FS0708ref-2 Improving advising (Student Affairs)
FS0708ref-3 Emergency preparedness (Facilities Planning)

The meeting was adjourned at 14:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Carroll, Secretary