

Faculty Senate

@ Missouri University of Science and Technology

2008-2009

Douglas R. Carroll, President
Michael Schulz, President-Elect
K. M. Isaac, Secretary
Neil L. Book, Parliamentarian
Frank D. Blum, Past President
facsenate@mst.edu, 573.341.4972

To: Faculty, Staff and Administration

Date: October 26, 2008

From: Douglas R. Carroll
Frank D. Blum, Michael Schulz

Re: IFC Report for October 22, 2008
Meeting

The Inter-Campus Faculty Council (IFC) meeting was held 10:30 to 15:00 on October 22, 2008 in University Hall on the Columbia Campus.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is a topic that was carried over from last year; the issue was never resolved. Since there are several new faculty on the council, the first order of business was to summarize what had been discussed last year. The issues center around what faculty are allowed to do when they catch students committing academic dishonesty, which is usually either plagiarism or cheating on an assignment, quiz or exam. There is no question that the faculty member has the right to give the student a zero on the assignment, quiz or exam. Many (if not all) faculty feel that there are cases where the student should receive an "F" in the course for academic dishonesty. The UM legal representatives have questioned the right of faculty to give an "F" in the course. The core issue is whether or not faculty have the right to give a student an "F" in the course for academic dishonesty. Discussion of the topic will continue this year.

Consulting Reports – Steve Graham: The consulting reports will now be done on-line through the faculty activity system (FAS). Faculty must respond to the report, even if they have no consulting activity. The due date is October 31st. The link for the system is given as: <https://fas.missouri.edu/fas/fas>.

COACHE – Deborah Noble: COACHE is a research program housed at Harvard University which is studying how the younger tenured and tenure track faculty balance their professional and personal lives. The UM system would like for our younger faculty on the four campuses to fill out the surveys for the program. The university system plans to use the results to develop better methods of attracting and retaining talented young faculty.

Conflict of Interest – Steve Graham: The UM system is looking at system wide policies for identifying and managing conflict of interest.

Board of Curators Meeting – Steve Graham: There appear to be no controversial issues for the board meeting this week. Frank Blum will attend the meeting and provide a report at a later time.

elearning – Steve Graham: The UM system is in the process of hiring an Executive Director for Distance Education for the four campus system. Faculty from all four of the campuses expressed concern about the position. The primary concerns were that there is no faculty involvement in defining the position, conducting the search or selecting the candidates. These concerns were expressed to President Forsee later in the meeting.

Economic Situation – Nikki Krawitz: It was reported that the economic situation will likely impact the university budget. The impact for this fiscal year (ending June 2009) appears to be small at this point in time. The state funding for the 2009-2010 fiscal year does not look good at this point in time.

- a. The short term cash for the university is intact and liquid. Most of the short term investment has been in government bonds.
- b. The variable rate debt for the university (for day-to-day operations) is about 25% of the total debt for the university. There was a brief 5-day period where we had to pay high interest rates to get the needed cash, but the rates have gone back down. Averaged over a year this was a nominal amount.
- c. The university plans to issue more debt next summer to help with the budget. Steps are being taken to get us to an AA-1 debt rating to minimize the interest rate.
- d. The university had very small investments in Leman Brothers, AAG and other banks that went under, so our losses were small.
- e. The university is diversified in stocks, bonds, fixed accounts and property, so our losses have been much less than losses in the stock market. As of September 30th (the snapshot in time used for budgeting) the endowment fund was down 4.8% and the retirement fund was down 5.7%. Stocks have dropped a lot since September 30th, so the funds are actually down a lot more than this now, but these are the figures that will be used for budgeting returns for the next fiscal year.
- f. Endowment: Returns from endowment funds are typically about 5% of the endowment amount. Funds never pay less than 96% of what they paid the previous year or more than 106% of what they paid the previous year. So the return on endowments will be down only about 4% from what they paid last year.
- g. Retirement: The university makes a contribution to the retirement fund each year to ensure that it is fully funded and can meet its obligations. The contribution required will be based on the fund being down 5.7% (September 30th), and the contribution amount is based on a five year average to smooth things out. The university had budgeted for a 7% increase in the fund for this year, and it looks like that will be adequate. The retirement fund should not negatively impact our budget for this year. If stocks stay down, there could be a significant impact next year.

Meeting with President Forsee: The economic discussion continued when President Forsee came to meet with us. He is working with the legislature and governor to avoid getting a phone call requiring an X% cut in university expenses. He would rather know sooner than later so that we can plan how to handle the cuts. He asked that the campuses try to rethink what we do rather than give across the board cuts to all departments. There was discussion about the positives and negatives of reducing or eliminating programs at campuses to avoid across the board cuts.

President Forsee asked that the campuses think about accountability measures. How are we using the resources we have to achieve results in research, student outcomes, etc.?