

IFC REPORT

Frank Blum, Kurt Kosbar, and Doug Carroll attended the November 20, 2007 Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) meeting in Columbia.

Discussions with Academic Affairs included the possibility of the University (via each campus) joining the “Voluntary System of Accountability, VSA.” This is a consortium of public universities that will develop a more or less standardized approach to metrics that would be put on each institution’s web page in a more or less standardized way. Information about this project can be found on the following web site:

<http://www.voluntarysystem.org/>

We also discussed the proposed Faculty Leave Policy that has made its rounds through the campuses. IFC voted to send the Policy to President Lamb. He may wish to forward it to the Board of Curators for their approval. If anyone wants a copy of the latest draft, contact an IFC representative. The UMR Personnel Committee has looked at it and there has been dialog between the Committee and UM System personnel.

IFC met with Vice President for Finance Krawitz on the principles related to resource allocation. This is how State funds get distributed among the campuses. Unfortunately, the resources from the State have been low enough that the portions of the Allocation Plan that dealt with performance have not been implemented. The St. Louis campus, based on several different metrics, appears to be particularly under funded and some additional allocations have been made to that campus, but there is still a gap.

On the campuses, UMC is particularly concerned fund reallocations and costs of compliance with different mandates. For example, their Institutional Research Board budget has increased significantly over the last few years. They now put comments about intellectual pluralism on their course syllabi. UMSL is looking at its operating rules carefully to see if they need modification. UMKC expects the new Provost to be in place January 1 and is revising its policies on promotions and tenure. UMR reported on the bylaws elections and changes to the collected rules and regulations, as well as shared governance. As a campus, we seem to be exemplary in our policies and training on environmental and sexual harassment issues.

Mike Hayden from the UM Benefits Office reported on the transition of moving our health package from United Health Care to Coventry. This change was mainly predicated by service issues. There appears to be a pretty good overlap of service providers [although this was not initially communicated very well]. The UM Benefits Committee has been working on these issues.

Interim President Lamb was unavailable to meet with IFC.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the IFC representatives.

Sincerely

Frank Blum, Kurt Kosbar, and Doug Carroll