

Faculty Senate

@ Missouri University of Science and Technology

2008-2009

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To: Faculty Senate

Date: June 18, 2009

From: Douglas R. Carroll

Re: President's Report

1. LAMP. The Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) is implementing a Curriculum Alignment Initiative (CAI) as part of the Learning Assessment in Missouri Postsecondary Education (LAMP) program. One of the primary initiatives of the program is to set standards for lower division courses and make it easier for students to transfer the courses from one institution to another. This may impact our transfer programs, transfer credit, and our course equivalency database. MDHE may require that Missouri S&T accept certain courses as transfer credit. Details are at http://www.dhe.mo.gov/files/caifinalreport_0608.pdf

2. On-Line Voting. On-line voting has become a popular method of voting on issues and collecting survey data on the campuses. At the IFC meeting in May it was pointed out that there are cases where a paper ballot is required by the collected rules and regulations (CRR). We need to be sure that paper ballots are used when required by the CRRs. An example is that voting on changes to the Faculty Bylaws must be done with paper ballots.

3. State Funding for FY 2010. The state funding for FY 2010 will be the same as for FY 2009, but it includes \$49M of stimulus funding. State tax revenues this spring have been lower than projected, and there are concerns about a withholding in FY 2010 and/or a budget reduction in FY 2011. State funding continues to be a concern.

4. Concealed Weapons on Campus. A bill that proposed allowing concealed weapons on college campuses passed the State House this year, but was not acted on by the Senate, so it did not become law this year. The Faculty Senates at all four of the UM campuses passed resolutions against the bill, and President Forsee lobbied against the bill. All of the universities in Missouri lobbied against the bill. However, the bill is supported by the NRA, and may be introduced again next year.

5. Stocks Are Up! As I write this report the DOW is at 8799, up 34% from a low of 6547 in March. No one can predict the future, but there is hope that the stock market has bottomed out and will begin to recover. Increasing stock prices will help stabilize our retirement asset and all of our endowment funds. This is good news; we all hope the trend continues!

6. Special Curators Meeting on Benefits. There will be a special Board of Curators Meeting in August where the Curators will discuss faculty and staff benefits. With the drop in stock prices and the resulting losses on the retirement asset, some Curators are concerned about funding the retirement benefits. At this point we do not know what will be proposed or discussed at the meeting. It will be an open meeting, and we plan to have a Faculty Senate representative attend and provide a report.

7. Information Technology – Invasion of Privacy. CRR 110.005 authorizes University (IT) access to electronic information on university owned computers and networks, including email and other personal information under the conditions that (1) it is necessary to maintain functioning of University computing resources, (2) if there is suspicion of misconduct under University policies, or (3) if it is necessary to comply with federal or state law.

UM System is proposing a revision to CRR 110.005 that would also authorize the University to access this information, *if it serves a legitimate business need of the university*. The reasoning given was that there are cases where an employee is unavailable, dead, or no longer employed by the university, and the university needs access to the person's email or other personal information. As an example, in some departments, the administrative assistant schedules department events or meetings or conducts other department business using her personal email as the contact point. If she goes on vacation or leaves the university, the department may need to access her email account to get the messages related to department business. The proposed change in CRR 110.005 would allow Information Technology to access her email account.

There is concern that "legitimate business need" is poorly defined and that it would be possible for the University to abuse the policy. Currently the procedure for implementing CRR 110.005 requires that requests that affect faculty must be authorized by the Faculty Senate President, the Chancellor or Provost, and the CIO for the campus. Requests that affect a staff member must be authorized by Human Resources and the CIO for the campus, and requests that affect students must be authorized by Student Affairs and the CIO of the campus. However, the procedure for implementing CRR 110.005 can be modified without changing the CRRs.

8. Salary Computer. Human Resources has developed a tool to allow faculty to access base salary information for different faculty disciplines. The system is still being tested. To use the system, please go to the web site below and click on "Begin the Survey".

<http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/hr/compensation/cognos/facultysurvey.shtml>

9. Textbook Payola. Some textbook companies are offering faculty a development fee or other compensation in exchange for selecting a specific textbook. This is a conflict of interest, but it does not currently violate any of the collected rules. CRR 330.015 will be modified so that faculty are no longer allowed to accept gifts, development grants or other compensation from any company or organization that would benefit from adoption of course textbooks.

10. Faculty Awards Committee. The Ad-Hoc Faculty Awards Committee has examined the awards given to faculty for teaching, research, service and economic development, and has prepared a recommendation for a new awards structure. The recommendation is a significant change from the present award structure. The committee will give a presentation at the June 18, 2009 Faculty Senate meeting, and the Faculty Senate will discuss the proposal. Details are at

<http://facultysenate.mst.edu/FacultyAwards.html>

11. Student Learning Outcomes Assessment. RP&A made a referral to AF&S: *Referral to the Academic Freedom and Standards Committee (AF&S) AF&S is requested to consider the processes for assessment of student learning outcomes, specifically aimed towards approval of processes of the assessment plan associated with the 7 learning objectives on page 19 of the "Campus Assessment Plan."* AF&S will review the student learning outcomes assessment process and report to the Faculty Senate.