

Faculty Senate

@ Missouri University of Science and Technology

2008-2009

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To: Faculty Senate

Date: November 16, 2008

From: Douglas R. Carroll

Re: President's Report

Dean Titles: We received a memo from the Provost explaining why the top administrator in Enrollment Management needed the dual title of Dean and Vice Provost. This letter was forwarded to Faculty Senate members. When recruiting students for the university, especially international students, having the title of Dean gives the university an advantage in attracting the students to Missouri S&T.

Tenure Policy: UM Legal asked that we make minor changes to the tenure regulations to clarify that they apply only to tenured and tenure track faculty. A minor change was proposed for the title of the policy document and in the first paragraph. The Faculty Senate standing committee reviewed the proposed changes and decided that the changes were not substantive, and that it was not necessary to have a formal review and vote at the Faculty Senate meeting. The changes were made as proposed.

Student Teaching Evaluations Spring 2008: There were problems with the student teaching evaluation data for the spring 2008 semester. Some Faculty have reported that there is no data for some of their classes that they are sure were evaluated. Faculty have also reported that, in some cases, there were more responses than students in some classes. The Committee for Effective Teaching is aware of the problems and are working on the problem. The data is used for tenure and promotion decisions and for annual raises, so it is important that the data is correct. The annual Outstanding Teaching Awards will be delayed until the data is corrected.

Election Results: The new Governor (Jay Nixon) and Lt. Governor (Peter Kinder) are both graduates of University of Missouri-Columbia. The Republicans picked up an additional 3 seats in the senate, and now have a 23-11 majority in the senate. The Democrats picked up 2 seats in the house, but the Republicans still have an 89-74 majority in the house. It is very unlikely that the legislature will support a tax increase. The University will make an effort to educate the new legislators about our mission. Higher education is an investment, not an expense.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is an issue that concerns many faculty. The current issue is whether or not faculty have the right to fail students in a course for academic dishonesty. Faculty do not have the right to punish students; only the administration can punish the students. Is failing a student for academic dishonesty and academic judgment or a punishment? Are grades given as punishment and reward, or are they always academic judgment? These are issues that will continue to be discussed.

eLearning: The UM system is in the process of hiring an Executive Director for Distance Education for the four campus system. The system wide effort will not impact the distance education program at Rolla.

FMLA Policy: Policy changes were made in the last year that extended the faculty medical leave policy to Research Professors and Teaching Professors. Such faculty would be eligible for up to 12 weeks of paid medical leave, including maternity leave. Lecturers and staff are not eligible. Up to 26 weeks of leave can be granted to military personnel who were injured in the line of duty.

New Format for the Annual Faculty/Chair Conference: When the Deans, Schools and Colleges were eliminated, the format for the form used in the annual conference became obsolete. The Personnel has developed a new form which is consistent with the current management structure.

Administrative Review 2009: The Administrative Review committee met Tuesday November 11 and selected the following administrators for review this year: Chancellor Carney, Provost Wray, Vice Provost Collier, Vice Chancellor Malott, and Vice Chancellor Eggert. The committee plans to work with IT to set up an electronic survey with the option of printing the survey for off-line submission. The survey will be administered in late January to mid-February (giving faculty two weeks to complete the survey) with feedback to the administrators, their superiors, and the campus by late April. Committee members are Mariesa Crow (Chair), Bruce McMillin, S.N. Balakrishanan, and Gerry Wilimski.