Minutes for RP&A Meeting September 25, 2007

Meeting was held in Electrical and Computer Engineering room 236

Attending: Kurt Kosbar, Frank Blum, Jeff Smith, Raj Singh, Bruce McMillin, Eun Soo Park, Michael Schulz, Doug Carroll, Alex Dempsey, Rachel Prewitt, Keith Nisbett, Lance Haynes, S. N. Balakrishnan

1. The agenda for the meeting was approved.

2. The minutes from the September 12th meeting were approved.

3. Request from the Curricula Committee to discuss procedures for submitting forms that require signature from Deans.

   a. The current Faculty Bylaws specify that the Deans will forward the course and curricula change forms from the departments to the Curricula committee. But now we do not have Deans. We do not have the Discipline Specific Committees in place to follow the new version of the Faculty Bylaws. It is not possible for us to follow the current Faculty Bylaws, or the new Faculty Bylaws that we believe will be put into effect this fall. So we need an interim policy of how course and curricula changes will be handled.
   b. It was proposed and approved that the Provost (or his designee) would act in place of the Deans, and that we would otherwise follow the current Faculty Bylaws for course and curricula changes. Keith Nisbett will notify the Provost of this decision. Keith will also notify the department chairs that the Provost will be signing on the forms in place of the Deans.

4. Outstanding Referrals to Faculty Standing Committees

   a. There is a proposed attendance policy that would allow students who are involved in official UMR activities to be excused from their classes. This proposed policy was previously referred to the Academic Freedom and Standards and Student Affairs committees. AF&S has deliberated on the proposal, but is not ready to make an official recommendation. Student Affairs will discuss the policy at their next meeting.
   b. The Personnel Committee closed a referral regarding the old faculty leave policy.
   c. The Information Technology/Computing Committee is making progress on the "IT Users Bill of Rights" but is not ready to make an official recommendation.
   d. The Tenure Committee will meet tomorrow to discuss how to monitor the implementation of the new tenure procedures.
   e. There is a new Faculty Leave Policy being proposed. A referral was made to the Personnel Committee to review this policy and make a recommendation.

We had a philosophical discussion of what to do when a faculty member brings an issue directly to one of the standing committees. Committees are allowed to take actions on such issues without an official referral from RP&A. The committee will need to use their judgment as to whether or not it makes sense for them to address the issue brought by the faculty member.

5. Outstanding Issues with the Administration

    a. Bylaws Update
        (i)   Dean Signature on Diploma. This issue will be addressed in a meeting with UM System representatives on October 1st, along with other issues in the Collected Rules and Regulations.

        (ii)   Shall we make Faculty Senate Officers members of the Faculty Senate? We decided that the officers should be ex-officio members, but should have the right to vote only if they are an elected representative from the department. The Bylaws need to be changed to reflect this decision. In the event of a tie vote in the Faculty Senate, the President will break the tie, regardless of whether he/she is a voting member. This also needs to be added in the Bylaws.

        (iii)   Composition of the Parking Committee. In the current Bylaws there are 12 faculty members on the Parking Committee, with three elected from each school or college. When the Bylaws were revised, the "from each school or college" was dropped and this reduced faculty membership to three faculty members, which was an oversight. It was decided that we need to modify the Bylaws to include 12 faculty representatives to the Parking Committee.

        (iv)   Staffing of Standing Committees. This fall we are having difficulty getting enough nominations from the departments to fill all of the vacancies in the Standing Committees. It was decided that we need to make a provision in the Faculty Bylaws to allow RP&A to seek faculty to serve on the Standing Committees if we cannot obtain enough nominations from the departments.

    b. Campus Promotion and Tenure Policy. The new campus Promotion and Tenure procedure was approved by the Academic Council in June, 2007. However, the new procedure is in conflict with tenure policy in the Collected Rules and Regulations (CRR), primarily because the CRR assigns Deans certain responsibilities in the tenure process, and we no longer have Deans. Some of the appeals processes are also in conflict with the CRR. The Tenure Committee will meet tomorrow (September 26) to discuss the issues. We cannot follow the old tenure procedure because we do not have Deans. We cannot follow the new tenure procedure because it is in conflict with the CRR. This needs to be resolved by January so that the Discipline Specific Subcommittees can make their recommendations to the Campus Promotion and Tenure Committee.

    c. Change in Pre-requisite Policy (This item skipped)

6. UMC Name Change Resolutions. UMR Student Council will make a resolution expressing concern about the proposed name change, and saying that concern has been expressed to them by students at the UMKC and UMSL campuses. The UMKC and UMSL campuses have passed resolutions opposing the name change. There was quite a bit of discussion as to whether the UMR Academic Council or our IFC representatives should oppose the name change or remain neutral.

7. Populating Standing Committees.

   a. Two departments have not yet elected representatives to the Academic Council (MAE and Mining/Nuclear)
   b. Call to go out for standing committees to elect chairs. Kurt Kosbar will ask the committees to elect chairs.
   c. Student Representatives on Committees. Student Council will provide the names of the student committee members.
   d. Judicial Committees. We approved the names submitted by Kurt Kosbar for these committees.

8. Posting of Student Teaching Evaluations. This item is in response to Senate Bill 389, which requires that universities post certain information about their faculty, including student evaluations. The item was referred to Academic Freedom and Standards and Personnel committees. We are asking the committees to familiarize themselves with the new statute, and the activities that are occurring at UMR, UM-System, DHE, etc. regarding the implementation of that law. Furthermore, we are hoping that the committees will bring to the faculty's attention any changes which might be problematic, or suggestions as to how we can respond to this new law in a constructive manner. Following is the official referral (which was actually developed after the meeting):

Referral - AC0708ref-3, Posting of Faculty Information as Suggested by SB389 to the Standing Committees for (i) Academic Freedom and Standards and (ii) Personnel

The above committees are requested to (1) become familiar with the language of SB389 especially as it relates to section 173.1004 which includes the posting of faculty information; (2) observe the evolution of the coordinating board (and/or the Department of Higher Education), state institutions, and the University of Missouri as they interpret the language in the Bill and plan for compliance; and (3) advise the Provost and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs if appropriate; and (4) report to Academic Council on the status of these items as appropriate.

In SB389 is the following section is the part concerning posting of information about faculty:

173.1004. The coordinating board shall promulgate rules and regulations to ensure that each approved public higher education institution shall post on its website the names of all faculty, including adjunct, part-time, and full-time faculty, who are given full or partial teaching assignments along with web links or other means of providing information about their academic credentials and, where feasible, instructor ratings by students. In addition, public institutions of higher education shall post course schedules on their websites that include the name of the

instructor assigned to each course and, if applicable, each section of a course, as well as identifying those instructors who are teaching assistants, provided that the institution may modify and update the identity of instructors as courses and sections are added or cancelled.

9. Listing of faculty representatives on Registrar's web site. (This item was skipped)

10. New Business. A motion was passed to ask the Registrar or appropriate official to see if we have correct representation from departments on the Academic Council. Kurt Kosbar will take care of this.

11. Meeting was Adjourned.