

**Volume XI, Number 8**  
**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**March 22, 2018**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by President Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani. Roll was called by Secretary Steven Corns. Those whose names are **grayed** out below were absent.

**Brent Unger**, Audra Merfeld-Langston, Mark Mullin, David Westenberg, (Langtao Chen for) Craig Claybaugh, Fui-Hoon Nah, Parthasakha Neogi, Jee Ching Wang, Jeffrey Winiarz, (Garry Grubbs for) Klaus Woelk, Mark Fitch, Jianmin Wang; Wei Jiang, (Michael Gosnell for) Chaman Sabharwal, Michael Davis, Levent Acar, James Drewniak, Kurt Kosbar, (Mariesa Crow for) Maciej Zawodniok, Steven Corns, Steve Raper, **Hercula, Sarah**, K. C. Dolan, Norbert Maerz, David Wronkiewicz, Kathleen Sheppard, (Mark Schlesinger for) Wayne Huebner, David Van Aken, **Akim Adekpedjou**, Martin Bohner, S.N. Balakrishnan, Umit Koylu, (Keith Nisbett for) Ashok Midha, Gearoid MacSithigh, Otis Register, Shoaib Usman, (Braden Lusk for) Paul Worsey, Dan Waddill, Ulrich Jentschura, Amber Henslee

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The February 8 and 22, 2018 meeting minutes were *approved* as submitted.

Professor Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani welcomed UM System President Mun Choi to the meeting. She suggested that the Curricula Committee and Public Occasions Committee reports be moved forward in the agenda to allow more time for President Choi to speak.

**Motion:** Professor Mark Fitch moved to suspend the order of the day in order to conduct the necessary business. The motion was seconded.

*The motion passed.*

**III. Campus Reports**

**A. Staff Council**

Mr. John Cook reported that there were several transitions on Staff Council. He said he officially took over as Staff Council chair earlier in the month and Julie Kramer was brought on as interim vice chair for the remainder of this year. Mr. Cook reported that an Open Forum was held the previous Friday for staff to ask questions and voice concerns. He said another forum is planned for next month.

Mr. Cook stated that the Activity Analysis Survey closed with a completion rate of 99% of eligible staff and that the results, which should be available soon, will be discussed in various planning meetings.

He said that the Staff Excellence Awards nomination period is open and the form is available on the Staff Council website. He urged the members to nominate a deserving staff member. The deadline for nominating is April 9.

Mr. Cook announced that Staff Appreciation Day will be held on Wednesday, May 30. He added that Staff Council is seeking volunteers to assist in various ways.

He said that Staff Council has been discussing the possibility of adding more picnic tables for outside seating. Ideas for locations on campus that might benefit from additional seating may be emailed to [staffcouncil@mst.edu](mailto:staffcouncil@mst.edu).

Details of the report are available at the following link:  
[StaffCouncil.3.22.18](#)

## **B. Student Council**

Mr. Scottie Thomas reported that the Fitness Center expansion design is completed. He said that the expansion will add an additional 10,200 square feet to the existing facility, which is 6400 square feet. He added that Student Council anticipates that bids will start coming in the next week and the project is still targeted for completion by Spring 2019. Mr. Thomas congratulated Ms. Madison Moore, who was recently elected as Student Body President for next year. He added that she will officially start her term on April 24.

## **C. Council of Graduate Students**

Mr. Palash Bhowmik reported on completed Council of Graduate Students (CGS) events and several ongoing projects, including Summer Research Fellowships and Travel Grants. Other initiatives include visiting S&T's high-tech facilities, including the Nuclear Reactor. He stated that the Graduate Research Showcase is upcoming. He added that this year, in addition to presentations by graduate students, faculty are invited to present their research. Mr. Bhowmik also reported that the Intensive Research and Professional Development Boot Camp, led by Mr. Bader Almutairi, was very successful. The focus was on technical writing, communication, public speaking, and entrepreneurship.

Mr. Bhowmik reported that that the CGS would like to see the implementation of an intensive course to cover areas such as writing, public speaking, patent law, and entrepreneurship to better prepare Ph.D. students for life after graduation. He added that training for new faculty is also needed in the area of graduate advising. Mr. Almutairi added that the proposed course could take the format of short-term presentations by faculty from different departments and fields. Information about the proposed course can be found at  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UOcQvjLRS\\_kXs0pMU4Wr6CNjPFY7tkFnXIa3\\_xrrvc/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UOcQvjLRS_kXs0pMU4Wr6CNjPFY7tkFnXIa3_xrrvc/edit).

The report is available at the following link:

[CGS.3.22.18](#)

In agreement with the vote to set aside the order of the day, the Curricula Committee and Public Occasions reports were discussed at this point in the meeting, but are recorded per the original agenda order.

#### **IV. UM President Mun Choi**

Professor Sedigh Sarvestani introduced President Mun Choi, who thanked the Senate for inviting him. President Choi invited Chancellor Maples, Provost Marley, Department Chair Joel Burken, and Professor and Mrs. Libre to join him at the front of the room. He then awarded the Presidential Award for Innovative Teaching to Professor Nicholas Ali Libre for his outstanding teaching at the university. The Senate responded with a round of applause.

President Choi then pointed out that Chief of Staff David Russell, whose retirement will be effective March 31, was also in attendance. He thanked Dr. Russell for his outstanding service to the university.

President Choi discussed the budget situation recounting the cuts that have been made over the last several years. He said that in recent conversations he has had with legislators, there is strong support for restoring some of those cuts to the core budget. He added that things will not change overnight, but there is a lot of positive support for public higher education in Jefferson City and we need to maintain the momentum.

He stated that prior to each Board of Curators meeting, the Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) members from all four campuses have been invited to share concerns or accomplishments that they want the Curators to know about. He further stated that the next Board meeting is scheduled for April on this campus and that some select non-IFC members from this campus will be invited to identify the issues that our faculty are facing. He also announced that on April 11, a System-wide summit on cyber security will be held on this campus. Several faculty members will be selected to give presentations on their research, but also to focus on areas where collaborations are possible. He added that campus leaders will meet to identify potential multi-university research grants in cyber security. President Choi invited faculty to share ideas for topics to be addressed prior to the June Board meeting.

President Choi brought up the “swim in your own lane” degree bill, saying it had passed the house and may be the first bill to reach the governor’s desk. About the Activity Analysis, he said that the data from the survey will be used to make informed decisions about reallocating university resources. He stressed that decisions regarding changes at each campus will be made by System and campus collaboration.

The President mentioned the Open and Affordable Educational Resources, adding that the effort by Professor Klaus Woelk and others have had a tremendous impact. He encouraged instructors to

check the cost of textbooks they are currently using and to utilize open textbooks whenever possible.

President Choi mentioned the formation of the System UM Task Force, explaining that the System Board of Curators want to define what it means to operate as one university as required by CRR 20.010. He emphasized that it does not mean one campus will take the lead and dictate what the others do. He added that whatever we do or do not do will be defined by whether we are meeting our objectives by creating excellence in teaching, research and engagement.

President Choi ended his formal remarks by asking for support in sharing with students and colleagues about what to do in an active shooter situation. He stressed the need for preparation, urging faculty, staff and students to take advantage of the training resources available on each campus.

President Choi then took questions and comments from the floor on a range of topics. Questions asked by the faculty related to how the metrics for the strategic plan were derived, the timing of the search for a permanent Chancellor, quality of the candidate pool for the Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies position, feasibility of doubling research expenditures in five years without infrastructure support, requirement that recommendations from all search committees to their respective hiring authority be in the form of an **un**ranked list, unsuitability of research expenditures as a measure of productivity for disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, and the detrimental effect of facilities closure on student teaching evaluations of courses requiring said facilities. With regard to the Chancellor's Search, President Choi said he expects to launch the search in September and to be completed by January. He also said he has asked Chancellor Maples to be a candidate.

## **V. President's Report**

In order to allow more time for other reports, Professor Sedigh Sarvestani gave a condensed version of her report. She reminded the Senate that the Board of Curators will meet on our campus on April 12-13, with the focus of the Faculty Senate breakfast being student experience. She pointed out that information on the budget and legislative updates is available on Dusty Schneiders' blog at <https://www.umssystem.edu/ums/gr/blog>. She asked the Senators to review the proposed NTT policy revisions, and to complete the administrative reviews by March 26.

Details of the report are available at the following link:  
[PresidentReport.3.22.18](#)

## **VI. Reports of Standing Committees**

### **A. Rules, Procedures and Agenda**

Professor Schuman reported that the Rules, Procedures and Agenda Committee met Tuesday, March 13 to prepare the agenda for this meeting. He stated that department nominations for committees have been requested. He gave a reminder that nominations are

to be elected by faculty. Preparations are underway for the elections to occur at the April 26 meeting. He said RP&A also discussed Faculty Senate Officer rotations, adding that the Parliamentarian has been the incoming FS position. Switching the order of rotation with the Secretary position being first and the parliamentarian position second would allow for training of incoming officers with regard to parliamentarian rules. Current parliamentarian Richard Dawes has agreed to continue in the role for an additional year.

Details of the report are available at the following link:  
[RPA.3.22.18](#)

## **B. Curricula**

Professor Schuman then presented the Curricula Committee report, stating that the committee met on March 7 to review three degree change requests and twenty-six course change requests and 3 experimental course requests.

**Motion:** The Curricula Committee moves for Faculty Senate to approve the DC and CC form actions.

*The motion passed.*

Professor Schuman added that the discussion of the Experimental Course policy is ongoing.

Details of the Curricula Committee report are available at the following link:  
[CCC.Report.3.22.18](#)  
[FS.Slides.3.22.18](#)

## **C. Budgetary Affairs**

Professor Mark Fitch stated that the Budgetary Affairs Committee has not met since the previous Senate meeting, so has nothing to report.

## **D. Academic Freedom and Standards**

Professor Mark Schlesinger reported that the Academic Freedom and Standards Committee met on March 9 to discuss three items of business. A request was made to AF&S to reconsider the policy denying the use of replacement grades to calculate GPA for the purpose of conferring academic honors. The Committee came to the conclusion that changing the policy is not advised and, thus, denied the request.

AF&S also received a request from the Office of Institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to revise the incomplete grade policy so that a Title IX coordinator could recommend a final grade of “incomplete” as a remedy for Title IX violations. After consideration, the committee decided that Section XIII.I.I.5 of the Student Academic Regulations can be used to deal with this problem, but suggested that the section be revised to add sexual harassment to the list of conditions under which a student could appeal

directly to a department chair for a grade change. A motion to make such a change will be sent via email over the next few weeks.

Professor Schlesinger reported that the third issue considered by the committee was a request to appoint a subcommittee to examine campus-wide assessment of student learning objectives. After some discussion, the committee decided not to create a subcommittee. Professor Schlesinger cited a lack of an assessment policy as a major consideration. Professor Larry Gragg commented that this is an area of weakness called out at our last Higher Learning Commission visit. He suggested that the committee reconsider the issue.

Details of the report are available at the following link:

[AFS.3.22.18](#)

#### **E. Public Occasions**

Professor Sedigh Sarvestani presented the academic calendar for the 2019-2020 academic year.

**Motion:** The Public Occasions Committee moves that the following open house dates be adopted for the 2018-2019 academic year.

- Saturday, October 6, 2018
- Saturday, November 10, 2018
- Monday, February 18, 2019 (President's Day)
- Friday, April 5, 2019

*The motion passed.*

Details of the report are available at the following link:

[POC.3.22.18](#)

### **VI. Administrative Reports**

#### **A. Chancellor's Report**

Chancellor Christopher Maples gave an abbreviated report, stating that President Choi had covered several of the topics in his report. He presented the timeline for myPerformance, which opens on our campus on April 2.

Details of the Chancellor's report are available at the following link:

[Chancellor.Report.3.22.18](#)

#### **B. Provost's Report**

Provost Robert Marley reported that the Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies (VCRDGS) search has completed the on-campus phase and the

committee will provide a report to the hiring authority in the near future. He said that the goal is for this individual to start their appointment on or before July 1.

Provost Marley also mentioned the Strategic Plan, thanking co-chairs Braden Lusk and Susan Murray for their leadership of the campus effort. He stated that the latest version is currently being reviewed by our peers and others at System level. He added that we should receive comments back and revisions should be finalized by the April Board meeting on this campus.

Provost Marley discussed the academic portion of the Academic Program Review. He indicated that the campus committee, headed by Professor John McManus, has been working and reviewing data in order to produce a rough draft report by April 6. The next milestone will be a final report due to President Choi by April 25.

Provost Marley referred to a request made of the Budgetary Affairs Committee for a report on faculty retention packages, asking if the report had been delivered. Professor Sedigh Sarvestani clarified that the request was made by the Faculty Recruitment and Retention Committee to the Budgetary Affairs Committee, but that the report had not been received. He stated that in the last two years, about \$288K in salary and benefits has been provided for faculty retention packages. He said that roughly \$1.5M has been allocated on a one-time basis to date for things such as equipment and facility modification. He pointed out that distributions cross college and gender lines.

Provost Marley was asked whether he expected Associate Vice Chancellor positions to be created to support the newly created Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies position. He responded in the affirmative, and elaborated that these positions were likely to be part-time administrative appointments.

Details of the report are available at the following link:  
[Provost.Report.3.22.18](#)

## **VII. New Business**

-NONE.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steven Corns, Secretary