



21 Oct 2021

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Oct 21, 2021

Missouri University of Science and Technology Faculty Senate

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**Volume XV, Number  
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting  
September 23, 2021**

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

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Homan. Roll was called by Secretary Dave Westenberg. Those whose names are grayed out below were absent.

Lana Alagha, Julia Alexander, Venkat Allada, Stuart Baur, Matthew Burmeister, Marco Cavaglia, Jeff Cawfield, Amitava Choudhury, Steve Corns, Kathryn C. Dolan, Cassie Elrod, Scott Miller for William Fahrenholtz, Mahelet Fikru, Darin Finke, Mark Fitch, Michael Gosnell, Sarah Hercula, Kelly Homan, Ali Hurson, Matt Insall, Ulrich Jentschura, Kurt Kosbar, Umit Koylu, K. Krishnamurthy, Bih-Ru Lea, Kelly Liu, Ashok Midha, Parthasakha Neogi, Jorge Porcel, Prakash Reddy, Melissa Ringhausen, Paul Runnion, Chaman Sabharwal, William Schonberg, Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani, Shannon Fogg for Kathleen Sheppard, Jeff Smith, Vahe Permezadian for Nancy Stone, Shoaib Usman, Jee Wang, David Westenberg, Daniel Willis, Maciej Zawodniok

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 23 meeting were distributed prior to this meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes.  
*Motion passes.*

**III. Campus Reports**

**A. Staff Council**

Tom Donnell presented and said Staff Council (SC) is working on fall appreciation day and the Grace food drive. Additionally, SC is reviewing staff scholarships.

**B. Student Council**

Amanda Aiken, Student Council President (StuCo) presented and said StuCo is back to having face to face meetings. There are still positions available so if you know good students please send them to Student Council. StuCo has also been working on improving the overall student experience on campus.

**C. Council of Graduate Students**

Mohamad Abdul Nabi presented for the Council of Graduate Students (CGS). CGS recently had a meeting with the Provost to discuss health insurance, an ombudsman

office, and a graduate student bill of rights. A follow up meeting will also be scheduled. A survey will be coming to graduate students to get feedback and students are encouraged to participate.

#### **IV. President's Report**

Kelly Homan presented and said that the Intercampus Faculty Cabinet (IFC) met on October 6<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Topics discussed included;

- The relation between Annual Review Process and HR 720.
- The review of UM System President
- Shared Governance working group: status report
- Updates from President M. Choi regarding
  - > Portion of federal COVID funds being used to support NextGen (MU), Manufacturing (S&T), Entrepreneurship (UMSL), and Hospital Health (UMKC) initiatives.
  - > Significant changes to Title IX

IFC will meet next on November 5<sup>th</sup> in Columbia and on November 10<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

UM System is mandating summer class registration to begin the first Monday in January so for 2022 the first day to register for summer classes is January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Intersession courses were proposed for consideration by an ad-hoc academic planning committee during spring summer 2020. These courses have been piloted in English and Technical Communications. There has been some additional interest in variations of these courses in other departments.

A survey regarding the mask and vaccination policy was sent to faculty. The results were provided to campus administration and President Choi. Campus polices are limited to local municipal policy. To monitor local cases, you can go to <https://coronavirus.mst.edu/dashboard/>

Things are moving forward for the Mining and Explosives Engineering name change. The next step is the DSCC and CCC will consider it and bring it to full Faculty Senate.

Regarding direct admission for CEC degree programs, Faculty Senate's role is limited to consideration by CCC. Other issues related to direct admission are outside Faculty Senate purview.

Evaluation of Teaching has been broken down into three components:

1. Policy Principles (cornerstone principles)
  - > Collecting feedback from Senate and administration
  - > Potentially, formalize in Chancellor's Policy

2. Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET or SBE) instrument
  - > End-of-semester course evaluations
  - > Lead: Committee for Effective Teaching (CET)
3. Guidelines for Department-level Best Practices: comprehensive evaluation of teaching (SBE, PBE, ISA)
  - > Summarize in white paper
  - > Lead: Campus Working Group – contribute?

More details will be shared during the standing committee presentations.

## V. Administrative Reports

### A. Chancellor’s Report

Chancellor Dehghani presented and shared that S&T’s dashboard has 10 key indicators that are monitored.



Student recruitment and retention has been a challenge and the office of recruitment or student success cannot address it alone. The Chancellor asked the faculty to be on board with the success of students and help identify who is in jeopardy. Midterm grades are coming and if there is a student who hasn't been showing up or their homework submission is weak say something and report it.

There is a very energized initiative going on where we received a call from UM System saying put your most important initiative forward. We are the only campus that worked

on an initiative like this. Our future Manufacture Missouri Ecosystem (MME) will advance manufacturing innovation. The MME is a statewide network of companies, educational partners, and government partners and this is Tier1. Tier 2 is the Innovation Campus and Tier 3 is the Missouri Protoplex. The total investment is \$105 million, \$50 million from the Kummer Institute Foundation, \$5 million State of Missouri match and a required match of \$50 million.

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

Provost Potts presented and discussed the faculty survey regarding the mask requirement which was informative and valuable.

In regard to retention, the Chancellor has asked that a number of people be invited to the committee on academic success. There will be smaller groups formed and will be focused on more activity. The retention rate for URMs is just over 60% so we are losing about a third of minority students by the end of their first year.

Faculty evaluations have been discussed by Kelly and the CET committee will also present later in the meeting. The topic of the 4 mandated questions and the additional 10 questions means we will have a longer survey. Starting in January, a slimmed down version will be used. The version has been piloted and revised. The goal is that in the next couple of years S&T will have a much more forward-looking performance management process for faculty development that is not seen as a retrospective year ending evaluation but as part of a process of being better.

There are dean searches currently going on. At the moment, we are waiting to see if we can negotiate a deal with a search firm to coordinate all of the searches together.

## **VI. Guest-VC of Strategic Initiatives and COO of the Kummer Institute**

Steve Roberts presented and shared the overall perspective of Kummer Institute (KI). KI is an element of our university funded by a 501c3 called the Kummer Foundation. The foundation and the institute does not create a broad safety net for S&T.

The primary objectives of KI are to elevate Missouri S&T, create outreach and engagement of K-12 communities to improve STEM access, and to drive economic development. KI has had the opportunity to invest in key strategies like research. Some of the things KI will be able to fund (by area) include;

### Research

- 20 endowed faculty (base funding + research funds)
- 100 Innovation and Entrepreneurship PhD Fellows
- 10 annual "Ignite Grants" for research proposal development
- Kummer College of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development
- Research centers to support, grow, and galvanize existing teams and networks
- Business Services Unit to support incubation, acceleration, commercialization

- Matching funds for grant proposals
- Capital projects: Protoplex; ERL/SJH addition

#### Student Success

- Kummer Vanguard Scholarships (\$2K annual support for each)
- I&E PhD fellowships
- Student academic support services
- 10 annual “Ignite Grants” for pedagogy innovation (esp digital learning)
- Kummer College of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development
- Capital projects: Innovation Lab

#### K-12 Outreach

- Center for STEM Education
- Summer camps
- Student extracurricular activities year-round
- Statewide tutoring services
- Teacher professional development (institutes, workshops, etc.)
- Curriculum development and support
- Mobile STEM Lab
- Army of Champions

There are existing buildings that will also be considered for improvements using KI money and ideas are coming forward for projects.

## **VII. Reports of Standing Committees**

### **A. Academic Freedom and Standards**

Kurt Kosbar presented on behalf of the Academic Freedom and Standards (AFS) Committee.

AFS received referrals on;

- admission procedures and foundational engineering and computing-on hold pending action by Curriculum Committee
- coordination of course syllabi-motion will be made this meeting
- modes of instruction-AFS is still discussing

The concerns of the coordination of course syllabi are as follows;

- Lack of uniformity in sections with multiple sections, taught by multiple instructors.
- Lack of uniformity across different courses within a major
- Unreasonable, or varying, policies regarding attendance
- Need for boilerplate information in the syllabus

- People other than the instructor controlling the syllabus

Students have expressed concerns because they feel there is a significant difference in the syllabus for the same class but a different instructor. Instructors have also expressed concern because in some cases they have been given a syllabus and told that will use that syllabus for their class. After looking at CRR's and other policies, the AFS voted to forward the following resolution for best practices for coordination of course syllabi for consideration by the Faculty Senate.

Whereas; The university fosters excellence and innovation in education by granting instructors the academic freedom to develop, present, and evaluate courses in the manner they see fit; and

Whereas, There is a reasonable expectation that when multiple sections of a course are taught in a semester, there will be a degree of uniformity across the sections; and

Whereas, Students can benefit when information regarding physical and mental health, safety and other important matters is distributed in course syllabi; and

Whereas, Campus regulations are largely silent on the detailed content of course syllabi; therefor be it

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Whereas, Campus regulations are largely silent on the detailed content of course syllabi; therefor be it

Resolved, That to balance the academic freedom of individual instructors, while assuring an appropriate level of uniformity in course syllabi, the S&T Faculty Senate endorses the following practices:

A provost / dean / academic department chair may reasonably require specific wording be inserted in course syllabi taught on campus / in their school / in their department, provided the same wording is to appear in all syllabi.

*Motion to adopt the resolution did not pass.*

## **B. Budgetary Affairs**

Mark Fitch presented on behalf of the Budgetary Affairs Committee (BAC). The BAC has addressed the following one-time referral;

- How much does research cost?

And the continuing referrals;

- Report on the “big picture balance sheet”
- Current and next FY budget

When looking into the costs of research, it is probably not a useful discussion. We get grants to do things and we do things to pay salaries. However, in regard to the current fiscal year budget, open faculty lines are decided by the Provost and Deans. Undergraduate enrollment is up 77 students, but it was projected to be up by 159. The result is a loss of \$820,000 in revenue. Retention is down which means less revenue, but graduate enrollment is up. This means waivers are lower and revenue lost is equal to cost reduction. State funding is flat with a decline in FY25 which could result in even more cuts.

The KI budget is described as “building a plane while flying it”.

In regard to distance revenue, Missouri Online is taking over and balls were dropped. Beth Concepcion is on board now and will be in charge of distance education here.

## **C. Curricula**

Michael Davis presented on behalf of the Campus Curricula Committee (CCC). The committee met on September 28. The committee reviewed 19 course change forms, 9 program change forms, and 3 experimental course requests (EC).

The CCC moved for Faculty Senate to approve the 19 course change (CC) forms and 9 program change (PC) forms.

*Motion passes.*

## **D. Information Technology and Computing**

Daniel Stutts presented on behalf of the Information Technology and Computing Committee (ITCC). At the Faculty Senate Meeting on 9-23-21, the following was discussed;

- Help Desk response time (med to long-term)



- Communications between Faculty and IT staff (short-term)
- Integration of academic (Canvas, etc.) and IT support (?)
- IT staffing (long-term)
- Relocation of IT back on campus (short – med-term)

The ITCC discussed the following topics on the committee meeting held 10-20-21;

### **Answers/Actions Proposed**

1. Significantly increased time to respond to Help Desk tickets. **Problem is due to (1) inadequate staffing, (2) non-optimal ticketing system, and (3) IT support staff not on central campus. S&T CIO is working the problem and has it as his highest priority.**
2. Need for better communication between faculty and IT staff, and better understanding on the faculty's part of the resource constraints imposed on IT. Need for more patience on the part of faculty while our brand-new CIO works through some of the current issues. **ITCC facilitate this by communicating key issues and actions through the Deans and department chairs. Other conduits will be discussed and considered.**
3. Adequate support for research computing given that this group must now support both Columbia and Rolla. **Something to keep an eye on. May even be an opportunity for S&T. More staff would be necessary to fully support custom systems for individual PIs.**
4. Better communication between UM system and faculty regarding software and policy changes to avoid unintended consequences affecting students, staff, and faculty. **Many recent complaints concern Canvas, which falls under eLearning, and not IT. ITCC will invite UM Chief Online Learning Officer, Matthew Gunkel, to discuss this issue.**
5. Adequate support for multiple computing platforms. One size (platform) does not fit all faculty. Windows, Mac, and Linux/Unix. **More support will be available as IT staffing resources allow. Multi-platform support is a recognized area of concern but need to improve overall IT support first (see #1).**
6. Faculty desktop enhancement policy: pennywise, pound foolish? **The new faculty desktop enhancement program allows replacement every four years, and approximately doubles the amount contributed to the cost by IT.**

### **E. Committee for Effective Teaching**

Devin Burns presented on behalf of the Committee for Effective Teaching (CET). Since global learning is gone, distant courses have no current mechanism for student evaluations. Information Technology (IT) has proposed combining on campus and distant student evaluations. IT would create both surveys.

Faculty Senate requests IT to combine distance and on-campus sections for the end-of-semester course evaluations, such that both use the same evaluation instrument; such that each section of a course shall have a separate number as a result.

*Motion passes.*

Last November, CET voted to approve a new set of questions for the student evaluation of teaching. CET retained the 4 state mandated questions and the "overall effectiveness" item but replaced the other six questions with a new list of 10 from a well-developed and validated instrument. A survey will be sent with a mechanism for providing feedback. CET will gather feedback and plan to submit our revised instrument for Faculty Senate Approval early next semester.

CET made a motion;  
Faculty Senate requests that for Fall 2021 only, IT augment the current evaluation instrument with an optional block of 10 new questions that are planned for the revised Student Evaluation of Teaching instrument.

A motion was made to table the discussion. *The motion to table passes.*

#### **F. Library and Learning Resources**

Kelly Homan presented for the Library and Learning Resources Committee (LLRC). There have been cuts to a lot of databases as a way to reduce budget shortfalls. The Provost has agreed to contribute one-time additional funds to cover the local budget shortfall for FY22.

### **VIII. Unfinished Business**

#### **IX. New Business**

##### **A. Teaching Evaluations**

Kelly Homan presented an overview for informational purposes only. There are three primary components;

- Policy Principles
- SET/SBE Revisions
- Department-level Best Practices for comprehensive evaluation

One aspect is guidance for departments and that would be localized at the department level evaluation of teaching.

#### **X. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Westenberg, Secretary