November 13, 2009 - Intercampus Faculty Council Meeting
TelePresence, 12:00-4:00 p.m.
[Attendance/Agenda items] Meeting Notes

[IFC faculty attendance: Michael Schulz (R), Leona Rubin (C), Gary Ebersole (KC), Matt Keefer (StL), Bill Wiebold (C), Carol Murphy (StL), Paul Speck (StL), K.M. Isaac (R), A. Holsinger (KC), and N. Stancel (KC).]

[Call to order: Approval of agenda: Additional Agenda Items]

The meeting began at approximately 12:10 p.m. Schultz brought up a couple of items: 1) According to a recent Supreme Court ruling, the government may be able to restrict statements by employees of an institution (however this may not apply to education) and, 2) UM Legal’s comments on S&T Bylaws revisions. These items were added to the agenda.

President Forsee joined the group in the TelePresence room in K.C., around 12:15 p.m. Because of technical difficulties, Doug Carroll was unable to connect from Springfield. Speck (last year’s chair) agreed to chair this session in Carroll’s absence.

[Discussion with President and Vice Presidents. 1. Campus Reports]

Isaac, Rolla: (1) A Task Capacity Force has been formed. (2) by-laws revisions are undergoing some minor changes based on recommendations by UM legal.
Rubin, Columbia: 2010 Strategic Plan document has some new components such as the One Mizzou concept, and a move to consolidate Mizzou Advantage, the new interdisciplinary research. Forsee enquired about specifics regarding One Mizzou.
Ebersole, Kansas City: KC just passed their 10 year accreditation. The new faculty grievance process is working very well. There was a recent article in the Kansas City Star concerning competition the campus faces. The Faculty Senate invited Betsy Rodriguez, Vice President, Human Resources, to the campus and she addressed various groups. Some prominent alumni recently received honorary degrees.
Keefer, St. Louis: He attended a meeting with personnel from the NPR (national public radio) station KWMU and curator Wayne Goode. President Forsee asked about the nature of the meeting. A discussion followed regarding the importance of public radio stations affiliated with the four
UMSL recently approved a non-smoking policy and same-sex spousal benefits.

[2. Discussion with President Forsee and Vice Presidents]

The economic outlook is not very good, and governor Jay Nixon is opposed to any tuition increase. The administration is looking at ways to save money and cut costs. Forsee commented that the budget situation is dire. He referred to material provided at the meeting. All the actions taken last year would continue into this year. During the following two weeks he would be at Town Hall meetings on the four campuses. He would seek input on cost reduction that would be needed because of budget cuts. Other sources of revenue are being examined.

An advocacy group called “Citizens for Higher Education across Missouri,” has been formed in Columbia. Forsee has given his full support to this group. This group endeavors to be a clear advocate for higher education in the state.

There are various choices under consideration: (1) furlough; (2) programs/cuts; (3) review of staff/faculty functions; and (4) tuition. Wiebold commented, related to programs, that we have to do what’s right for the institution. We need to put money where it will make the most impact. President Forsee sought “thought leadership.” Of the $50 million in federal stimulus, we will spend half of it in 2010. A permanent $50 million budget reduction in the next two years is very likely. Ebersole commented that program synergies should be considered when considering program cuts. Forsee commented that some staff positions are as important as faculty positions. There was a discussion about the new norm for state support. Keefer commented that UMSL is working on “vertical cuts.” Isaac commented that Rolla is stretched to the limit and further across the board cuts would be harmful to the long term health and reputation of the university.

Graham commented that people are more concerned now than last year. Wiebold emphasized that we shouldn’t be just making cuts, but also be building a better place for the future. Forsee pointed out that the Town Hall meetings would give everyone a glimpse of what may be coming.

[Discussion with Senior Associate Vice President Graham, Assistant Vice President Noble-Triplett, Faculty Fellow Weisbrook]

Graham initiated a discussion on intellectual property rights and referred to a handout at the meeting, and asked for feedback. The core issue is who has ownership when students, faculty, industry, and university are involved. There may be a need to canvas student organization to find a right way to structure a policy. The need for policies and procedures that would address the new way of doing things was expressed. Classroom material also comes under intellectual property. Tom Phillips has started re-writing the Collected Rules and Regulations sections that pertain to intellectual property.

Schultz brought up the topic of UM Legal’s comments on the revision of S&T Collected Rules and Regulations. Schultz and Graham disagreed on how to interpret UM Legal’s input. A lengthy discussion followed.

Rubin made a presentation on “Mizzou Advantage.” The goal is to identify areas of strength and niche areas such as CAFNR, Vet Med, Medical School, and Research Reactor. New areas include Food for the Future, New Media, One-Health-One-Medicine, and Sustainable Energy. A discussion on how this Mizzou initiative can be leveraged to involve the other campuses followed. The need to involve humanities in such efforts also was brought up.

Graham gave a brief legislative report. A bond issue to address capital needs, the likelihood of “Access Missouri” staying as it is, “Concealed Carry” being brought again, and “LAMP” were mentioned.

Speck asked for a report on how the UM Legal issue would have been resolved later by Schultz and Graham. Wiebold suggested that the 3-year degree consideration be abandoned. A discussion followed. Speck called for items not on the agenda. Speck spoke about a discussion he had with a textbook company representative on the topic of moving away from traditional textbooks. The roles of faculty and administration were mentioned. Speck saw it as a joint effort by faculty, administration and industry. A subcommittee of Speck, Rubin, and Isaac was formed to look into this topic.

The meeting closes at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
K. M. Isaac
Secretary