December 18, 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), Matt Keefer (StL), Bill Wiebold (C), K.M. Isaac (R), A. Holsinger (KC), Douglas Carroll (R), and Wilson Watt (C).]

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

The meeting began at approximately 12:15 p.m.

There was a discussion on the university’s position on Cap and Trade and how to unify the administration and faculty views before presenting to the public and media.

The group discussed domestic partner benefits issue. There are differences in the approach taken by the four campuses. St. Louis and KC are ahead compared to Columbia and Rolla.

Budget cuts were discussed next. Members shared information on how the campuses are handling the cuts. Ideas such as merit raises, layoffs, and furloughs were discussed.

At this time, vice presidents Graham, Noble-Triplett, Nichols and Paden joined the meeting. President Forsee could not be present because of other commitments.

The group then discussed textbook compensation issues. Different ways to avoid conflict of interest was proposed. Graham proposed he and Wiebold draft policy and bring to January 2010 meeting.

Nichols asked for feedback on IP questions discussed at the retreat and the document subsequently sent out. This was asked to be put on the February meeting agenda.

Campus Reports

Keefer reported on budget discussions with Rodriguez and Krawitz and how they are going to achieve a 5% budget cut.
Schultz (R) reported that the wife of Chancellor Carney had recently passed away. There was a discussion of the Schultz’s proposal on raises.

Holsinger (KC) reported that their faculty recently prepared a position description for an “Ombudsman”. Graham asked how the ombudsman would function. KC is continuing the pilot program on the new grievance resolution procedures. Resolution is quicker now than before. There was property sale on the west side of campus.

Rubin (C) reported that they have a new graduate dean. Recently the Faculty Council changed the rules to include non-tenure track faculty on all faculty and campus standing committees.

Vice President Krawitz made a presentation on: (1) Retirement Fund, and (2) Budget. There will be flat tuition next year and a 5% reduction in state support. There was lengthy discussion of how to handle the budget cuts so as to cause the least amount of damage to the long term health of the university. Adverse effects of increasing class sizes and teaching loads on graduate education and research were brought up.

Graham asked how teaching loads for faculty holding endowed chair positions should be handled. There was a lively discussion and differing viewpoints. Isaac emphasized the need to use faculty productivity measures rather than titles in deciding who should receive reduced teaching loads.

Krawitz introduced John Miller, the new Treasurer who was previously at Florida International University. Miller told the group that they had a 25 % reduction in state funds.

Krawitz explained the reasons for the stabilization fund. Paden commented that the employee retirement dollars do not go into the stabilization fund. Keefer stated that the university Benefits Committee needs to have both staff and faculty on it, especially now because employees are now making contributions to the retirement system. Rodriguez replied that President Forsee is not in favor of changing the committee structure. Keefer said this is a very important committee and its members need to effectively represent faculty and staff. Schultz commented that this is related to faculty governance. Rodriguez suggested that IFC committee members speak to their Chancellors about this.
Graham reported on an “Institutional Conflict of Interest Committee” deliberations. He would be sending some information out. He had asked the Provost on each campus to be the information gatherer on this issue. A discussion followed. Recently, primate research at Oklahoma State upset some donors, and some problems were caused by not having clearly stated policy. The larger issue is external money and its impact on decision making. Graham asked for the campuses to discuss this issue.

The group then discussed the slow response from UM Legal on referrals.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

-KM Isaac
Secretary