March 16, 2010 - Intercampus Faculty Council Meeting
321 University Hall

IFC faculty attendance: Michael Schulz (R), Leona Rubin (C), Matt Keefer (StL), K.M. Isaac (R), Douglas Carroll (R), Nancy Stancel (KC), Carol Murphy (StL), Gary Ebersole (KC), Wilson Watt (C), William Wiebold (C), Paul Speck (StL), and A. Holsinger (K.C.)

The meeting began at approximately 10:07 a.m. The agenda was approved.

There was a discussion on Spring Breaks on the different campuses. They are not all during the same week.

An item on taking back awarded degrees was added to the agenda.

A discussion of the pros and cons of having A+ on the grading scale was discussed. The benefits survey was then discussed. Some shortcomings of the survey, its usefulness and purpose were discussed.

The minutes of the previous meeting were then approved.

Discussions with Senior Associate Vice President Graham, Assistant Vice President Noble-Triplett, Faculty Fellow Weisbrook

Tom Phillips from Columbia briefed the committee on military credit for veterans policy on the Columbia campus. The previous policy of not accepting ACE (American Council on Education) was revised. It is now up to the departments to decide on a case by case basis whether to accept military credits. All military credit is pass/fail. Tom Phillips agreed to send the documents in electronic form for the other campuses to consider this item. Graham suggested all campuses consider this issue and establish policy. There is no need to have uniform policy for all campuses.

Phillips then discussed revised Classroom Intellectual Property policy at Columbia. The revisions include department chair’s approval and having agreements in writing regarding ownership.

Vice President Nichols continued with the discussion of student intellectual property. If the students are employed by the university, their inventions will be university-owned. Discussion on how much the student is paid for the university to have ownership was discussed. The consensus was that it’s best established at the department level.

Discussion with President Forsee and Vice Presidents Nichols, Graham, Forsee, Noble-Triplett, Rodriguez, and Faculty Fellow Wiesbrook.

President Forsee handed out an article from Barron’s Online dealing with the “$2 Trillion Hole”.

Campus Reports

Keefer reported on the UMSL budget process. The recommendations are part of a projected 2-year plan. They are reviewing administrative evaluation. Forsee asked about the scope.

Schultz gave the report for S&T. Faculty are trying to cope with their changing role which some find difficult. A discussion followed on the changing role of faculty over the years and the reasons for it.

Rubin gave the report for Columbia. SPRAC met Commissioner Robert Stein. The university’s image at the national level is not what we would like it to be. There was a meeting with Chancellor Brady Deaton on “reinventing the university.” Coordinating the programs and activities on different campuses to improve efficiency was discussed. The students are asking for a required diversity course on campus. Students also feel that the faculty need diversity training. The Faculty Council recently passed two resolutions, one on family friendly campus and another on domestic partners (same-sex).

Ebersole reported for UMKC. The Senate would soon vote on domestic partner benefits. He referred to the university’s value statement as a beacon to act on this issue. He recently attended a 2-day budget meeting/retreat for strategic planning. The mood on the campus is somber.

Discussion with President Forsee and Vice Presidents

President Forsee felt that the budget situation is under control. He suggested another round of town hall meetings. The chancellors were expected to have their budget process completed before the April Board meeting. There was a discussion of funding the retirement system. The retirement system is fully funded, but the university contribution to the retirement system is projected to increase over the next few years.

Vice President Rodriguez discussed the Benefits Survey. She reported that HR was informed of the problems encountered in completing the survey. She said there were both positive and negative comments regarding the survey. 40% of the approximately 8000 employees participated. The survey cost $125,000. The Benefits survey is done every 10 years. The results would be presented at the April Board meeting and a summary might be available before that.

Rubin said she was planning for the Spring Semester General Faculty meeting to have an agenda item on Intellectual Property.

Weisbrook said she would have a conference call to Members of the Awards Committee at 1:00 p.m. on the following Monday. She reminded the UMKC representatives that she didn’t have a UMKC member.

Assistant Vice President Noble-Triplett reminded members on the Academic Integrity item. She asked each campus to discuss this and come back to the April IFC meeting with their input for final adoption. Schultz cited problems with the timeline. May would be the earliest by which S&T can discuss this in committee and the Faculty Senate for recommendation. There was a discussion of improving the response time by campuses, such as using email and having additional meetings.
Rubin asked if we had a policy about revoking awarded degrees at the system level or on the other campuses. Graham said he was not aware of any.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
K. M. Isaac
Secretary