May 12, 2010 - Intercampus Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
321 University Hall

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

The meeting began at approximately 10:00 a.m. Rubin asked for adding partner benefits to the agenda. Wiebold asked for a discussion on next year’s IFC meetings which Columbia will be chairing.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

There was a discussion of the possibility of extending “soft” benefits to domestic partners possibly including benefits such as tuition remission. Members discussed various ways of effectively implementing “soft” and full domestic partner benefits taking into account the budget situation and gaining support at the state level.

Weibold suggested starting next year with a retreat. All present favored having a retreat.

Members expressed the need for better coordination of the campus faculty governance bodies and the system Benefits Committee.

Language for Intellectual property (IP) is being developed. Input from various campuses will be used for this purpose.

Vice President Graham handed out a draft document for “Jones Professorship.” Further refinements are in progress.

Weisbrook spoke about the progress on faculty awards. The discussion centered on the number of awards, dollar amounts, campus-level nomination and other related items.

The group then discussed Academic Integrity. The draft document handed out earlier was not accepted by all campuses. Concerns about the definition of terms, student rights, etc. were brought up.

President Forsee asked how the system-level awards would be different from the campus awards, and encouraged having procedures so that they go to as many different recipients as possible. He gave report on the developments in Jeff City regarding Access Missouri, combining DESE and Higher Ed, health benefits differences between state and university employees, and other items. The members thanked him for his tireless efforts to lead the university during these difficult times.

Keefer (StL) reported on the faculty evaluation of administrators.
Rubin (C) reported that Columbia has started work on the strategic plan by the “Outcomes and Actions” task force. MU is expected to have a record size freshman class. The Chancellor is implementing soft benefits for domestic partners.

Schultz (R) reported that Governor Jay Nixon would be the commencement speaker. The Capacity Task Force has completed the final report. It showed enrollment exceeding capacity. A general discussion of capacity, tuition revenue, quality and related items followed.

Ebersole (K. C.) reported that a new committee will look into what is essential and what is not. There is discussion on campus about “shared services.” K.C. campus is working with the Hispanic community to address their concerns. Tom Block of H&R Block received an honorary doctorate.

Allen reported on “shared services,” and cited PeopleSoft as an example. The reason for implementing the “shared services” is increased efficiency. A discussion followed regarding efficient implementation, impact and the roles of different campuses.

Rodriguez summarized Mike Paden’s presentation to the board. The Stabilization Fund was developed to cushion large fluctuations in fund performance. The money in the stabilization fund will be used over the next few years to reduce the required university contribution to the retirement fund.

President Forsee has asked for a study of “defined contributions.” There was discussion on how it will impact the university.

Rodriguez and the group then brainstormed about increasing the interaction between the Benefits Committee which she chairs and the faculty governance groups on the campuses. There was general agreement that this should be a priority.

The members then thanked the outgoing members of IFC.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

K. M. Isaac.