Call to Order

10:40 AM, by IFC President Ralph Wilkerson


Absent: Richard Wright

Agenda and Minutes

Motion to accept agenda – approved on voice vote

Motion to accept December 15, 2005 minutes – approved on voice vote

Administrative Review

A discussion was held on the need for system-wide guidelines for faculty review of administrators. There was a suggestion to form an ad-hoc committee to study the issue, but the consensus was to keep it at the full IFC level for now. Some of the questions raised were:

* Who should be reviewed?
* How often should they be reviewed?
* Who is allowed to participate/contribute comments?
* How should the results be tabulated and disseminated?
* What do the UM Collected Rules and Regulations specify in this area?
* What procedures are currently used on each UM campus?
* How do peer institutions handle administrative reviews?
* Should the comments be strictly anonymous, or should their be some filtering process which removes unprofessional responses? If there is a filtering process, who has responsibility for this and what guidelines/rules should that person use?

Each campus was asked to have one of their IFC representatives summarize their current policies and procedures - and forward these summaries to all IFC members.
Faculty Productivity

Information was presented to the IFC, describing faculty productivity and workload, based on the faculty activities reporting system. This is preliminary information, which appears to be incomplete, or inaccurate, in some areas. The IFC was asked for comments, and help in identifying which entries appear to be unreasonable.

Campus Reports

UMC
  Discussions on faculty governance, at the department level ongoing
  Searches for a number of Deans, and director of extension underway
  Excused absence policy being discussed

UMKC
  Bylaws in place for every academic unit
  Entering a significant building phase
  Provost search committee has submitted 5 names for on-campus interviews
  Transition to new Chancellor was very smooth

UMR
  Communication between faculty and administration continues to improve
  Discussing elimination of academic deans
  Issues with campus support of computer gaming
  Learning valuable lessons from UMKC regarding faculty input on budget matters

UMSL
  Chancellor has asked for faculty input on administrative cuts
  Concerned about UMSL student curator being asked to step down after short term of service

Comments from UM System President

Pleased to hear that shared governance is being embraced at all campuses.

Chancellor’s plans for a 10% administrative reduction are due by April 1. Plans will be shared with IFC. There is hope that a final plan will be in place by July. The goal is to eliminate redundancy. In some cases the savings will be reinvested in academic programs, in other cases it will be used to solve structural problems with the campus budgets.

There were some questions about exactly how the administrative costs were calculated.
The UMSL student curator was appointed to fill out the remaining term of a student curator from another campus. That term was for approximately 5 months, and expired in December 2005. A new student curator has not been nominated yet, but it appears the Governor will select a student from another campus. Concern was expressed from an IFC representative, that some see this as a punishment for the UMSL student curator speaking her mind - and may have a chilling effect on future students who serve in this capacity.

Information was distributed on next year’s proposed budget, and how tuition and fee increases would impact it. Concern was expressed over the division of the charges into tuition, and fees - and using only tuition changes when calculating the “percentage increase”. It was pointed out that many public institutions use a similar method, and that it is politically more palatable than stating all charges as tuition.

A request was made to have Steve Knorr visit with IFC at the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Submitted by Kurt Kosbar, IFC Secretary