1. An assessment proposal regarding the Voluntary System of Accountability was presented by Graham, Smith, and Akers
   a. Goal: How to make what we do transparent to families, public, stakeholders. See report on “Voluntary System of Accountability” (VSA)
   b. Participation in VSA is voluntary, but encouraged. May hold the potential for offering more accurate data regarding student retention, graduation rates, and also has a “cost calculator” for students and families, presumably making comparisons across institutions easier when deciding where to attend college
   c. VSA captures some detail regarding student satisfaction
   d. Accrediting agencies state they will accept data from VSA, potentially cutting down on effort toward accreditation processes
   e. Most of the data elements VSA needs (approximately 80%) are already captured by the campuses
   f. The “learning piece” may be the most controversial part of the system. For example there were concerns raised about some schools ‘teaching to the test’ in order to inflate the scores of their undergraduates in an attempt to look better than UM system campuses.
   g. Other issues brought up included the public interpreting the indicators correctly, however, assurances were offered that the UM system campuses will look good across most if not all indicators.
   h. Another concern was VSA not capturing all relevant indicators, however, there is a piece where institutions can add their own additional information for public consumption.
   i. Most premier institutions are either using or planning on using VSA
   j. Cost was not clarified.

2. Faculty leave policy
   a. It was shared that many questions have been posed from Human Resource folks at all four campuses, and these concerns/questions have been addressed.
   b. Changes made included the consolidation of all types of leave, and the clear definition of each type of faculty.
   c. The IFC unanimously endorsed the revised faculty leave policy.
   d. The faculty leave policy and IFC’s endorsement will be taken to the President who will then pass it onto the Board of Curators.
   e. January 2008 will be the earliest that the Board of Curators can consider the policy.

3. Resource Allocation Principles
   a. Every two to three years the system goes through processes in order to determine if resources allocated to the University are meeting needs. Efforts are also made to determine where we rank in terms of support relative to other Universities. The process also allows us to make intra-
comparisons across the four campuses in order to identify potential disparity.

b. Previously, a 12.6% increase was asked of the General Assembly, which would put us back to 2001 funding levels. General Assembly stated this could not occur all at once but would consider 4.2% for three years. Overall it was proposed that we may need as much as a 30% increase in funding to achieve an average level of resource allocation.

c. There is a need to continue building relationships with members of the General Assembly – data alone denoting funding problems is not enough.

4. Campus reports

a. Rolla

i. 82% of faculty who voted were in favor of revised by-laws

ii. Currently working on collective Rules and Regulations in light of the elimination of Dean’s positions

iii. The MST.EDU domain is in place (UMR.EDU will be transferred to another University)

iv. Concern over pay raises for faculty was substantially lower than that for administrators. The Budgetary Affairs committee has been asked to look into this.

v. Discussion and recommendation that “intellectual pluralism” be used rather than “intellectual diversity”

b. Columbia

i. Collective rules have been discussed – i.e., who gets represented on faculty council. A proposal was made recommending that all divisions that have a Dean that reports to Academic Affairs should have representation.

ii. The grievance process is working well now that a mediation component has been added. The mediation process appears to be diverting a number of grievances toward settlement before enacting the formal grievance process.

iii. It was brought up that the IFC should perhaps take up the issue of IRB’s over-reaching their domain (i.e. holding faculty to standards that are more rigorous than need be, particularly in the case of the social sciences and humanities).

c. Kansas City

i. Groundbreaking occurred for the library expansion

ii. Conservatory had an annual fundraiser that netted $764,000 in one night

iii. Provost search is nearing a conclusion (it is between two candidates at this point)

iv. Faculty senate has been working with Affirmative Action on hiring procedures in response to changes in hiring practices leading to a more rational policy

v. The Chancellor has accepted revised version of P&T guidelines
vi. The campus is waiting for a report on the sexual harassment investigation that is currently underway

5. Change in Benefits provider (From United Health to Coventry)
   a. There will be no premium increase for 2008
   b. There was a premium increase of 4.6% in 2006
   c. There was dissatisfaction with United Health in light of an apparent decrease in services as well as other issues. In response UM system put out an RFP, and Coventry appeared to be the clear choice complete with good references from other recipients. In addition Coventry has to meet $1.1 million in performance measures per the new agreement.
   d. Humana was considered, but would have resulted in a very large increase in out-of-pocket expense for recipients.