Intercampus Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2009

Present: Frank Blum, Wilson Watt, Tom Phillips, Doug Carroll, Gary Ebersole, Nancy Stancel, Matthew Keefer, Paul Speck, Michael Schulz; Alex Holsinger; and Carole Murphy

Absent: William Wiebold

The meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Speck at 10:30 a.m. Chair Speck called for the approval of the minutes from November 12, 2008 and December 9, 2008. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Speck called for the approval of the agenda. A request was made to add an item to the agenda when the President and Vice Presidents joined the meeting. The IFC member wanted to know the “take home message” regarding the article in the Columbia Tribune.

A question was raised as to when the discussion would take place on academic dishonesty. Last year we were on the verge of a policy. There was a controversy regarding the rights of faculty to fail a student for a course on the grounds of academic dishonesty. A short discussion was held. Watt was asked to draw up a subcommittee of IFC members to meet before next month’s IFC meeting.

Speck asked for any additional agenda items. There were none. Since there were a few minutes before the Vice Presidents joined the group, a discussion was held regarding the budget situation. The group felt that the faculty should be proactive rather than reactive and that we needed to keep an open mind to our options. If System considers some type of centralization, IFC members hope that it will be consulted.

[11:08 a.m. Discussion with Interim Vice President Graham, Assistant Vice President Smith, Assistant Vice President Noble-Triplet]

Grievance Procedure:

The grievance procedures at Columbia and Kansas City were discussed. Information on the pilot policy has been given to Rolla. The pilot for the
revised procedure begins in January ’09. The grievance procedures, both old and new, are accessible on the web. The balance in the new procedure is that it has a faculty oversight committee. A discussion followed of the old grievance procedure. Kansas City will have its first grievance using the new process in a couple of weeks. St. Louis and Rolla are being invited to join the pilot. This is a good example of working together on a common goal.

Budget Issues:

Graham distributed three handouts to the group. It was noted that Missouri is the 6th highest state for providing money to private institutions in higher education. A discussion follows this comment. In order to change the percent of funding to private higher education institutes, it has to pass the legislature. The President has taken a strong stance on the fact that public money should not be used to fund private institutions.

The Council for Public Education and the Association for Community Colleges will meet to talk about Access Missouri. The guidelines need to be revamped.

A discussion was held regarding comments made by Gary Nodler in the Columbia Tribune. Gary Nodler is a member of the Missouri State Senate. He chairs the State Appropriations Committee. President Forsee recently met with Nodler to discuss his comments in the newspaper as well as to clarify the role of our own Board and the Coordinating Board. There has been some tension between the boards. Nodler thinks someone should take the lead.

Graham asked IFC members if they would like a legislative update. The response from committee members was positive. IFC members felt that a legislative update would be a plus.

One of the IFC members asked if we were going to talk about the budget cuts? VP Graham stated that things are looking a little better right now because the December receipts were up. Another handout was passed around the table that requested all expenditures be curtailed immediately and indefinitely into the future. It was suggested that faculty be present at the February Board of Curators meeting. Because of the budget, there will be an effort to cut back on Board of Curators’ meetings as well as how they are conducted. Campuses were told to save their money now because the big
cuts would be coming in 2010. The concern is that there might be a 10% cut this year and another 10% cut next year. There was a discussion of how important it was for faculty to attend the Board meetings. Graham asked the group to talk about travel to IFC meetings. What are the options? Can we meet electronically? IFC members felt that it was important to meet face to face with the President. A suggestion was made that we could bring our own lunch if that would help.

[Lunch Break 12:08 p.m.]

[12:35 p.m., President Forsee joins the meeting]

President Forsee gave the committee information on the “run rate” (which is your standard operating expenses). He informed the committee that he had suggested to the Provosts that they monitor feedback on expenses. In addition, in state and out of state travel will significantly be reduced.

President Forsee then called for campus reports.

Senate Chair Keefer from UMSL reported that he had scheduled meetings for contingency planning. He is working very closely with the Budget & Planning Committee, Program Audit Committee, Benefits Committee, Chancellor, Provost and IFC members to discuss proactive ways to cut the budget in all areas. President Forsee asked about the mood of the students? Keefer responded that he met with student leaders and they are not very concerned. He continued that the staff seems more concerned than the students. They are worried about layoffs, furloughs, and losing their jobs.

Senate Chair Phillips from UM reported that they have just initiated a new smoking policy that requires smokers to be 20 feet away from buildings. The campus is moving to a non-smoking environment. In five years they expect to be smoke free. One complication to this is that the sidewalks that run through the campus belong to the city so it makes it difficult to enforce the policy, however no one has complained at this point. He mentioned the 12-12-08 special general faculty meeting and that there was a very good turn out. At this meeting, the Chancellor and his staff shared where some of the savings could be made on the UM campus and began a dialogue regarding budget reductions. The faculty actually clapped at the end of the Chancellor’s address. The faculty felt that the Chancellor was doing a good job of working with the deficit. Finally, there is a special faculty committee
looking at ways for cost savings, UM is considering the Rutgers Model for promotion and advancement. This model allows for promotion after ten years if you are doing a good job in the areas of teaching and service. It was reported that they are already doing this at Kansas City. A short discussion was held about how you reward someone for taking an extra teaching load.

Senate Chair Ebersole from Kansas City said the faculty at KC is asking how a full plate can be fuller? KC is currently working on a strategic plan and expects to have a report by the spring. They are also working on NCA accreditation. Although very busy, the faculty is not in a panic, but the Senate is trying to keep faculty in the loop of what is happening with the budget. They have appointed a new Provost and put in place an interim Chancellor, Dr. Leo Morton. President Forsee asked if the Dean search in Dentistry had started. Ebersole reported that they have four candidates coming in for the Dentistry Deanship in February. All four are good candidates.

Senate Chair Carroll from Rolla reported that enrollment is increasing. Classes are getting very big and they are seeing the most impact at the upper levels because of the transfer program. This increase load is impacting upper level faculty who are also responsible for research. Some of the students are complaining about the large class sizes and the fact that they cannot get into classes. With this increased enrollment he has concerns about how this will impact their programs. The main problem is lack of faculty to teach, especially in upper level classes (junior and seniors). President Forsee asked what is causing the increase of upper level students? Carroll reported that the transfer program director and her staff are doing a great job of recruiting new students. The question is how can they teach all of them. President Forsee asked if they had considered different dollar amounts per level of classes? Carroll responded that this might cause limitations on enrollment. KC responded that this is the same problem they are having. If we could be more competitive with our tuition we could bring in more students who are currently choosing to go to the Community Colleges.

Rolla students seem generally concerned about budget constraints, philosophical concerns, and practical concerns. The question was asked if the Curators would be willing to increase tuition.
President Forsee stated that the option is being discussed as to tuition being different at each campus. It is a complicated issue. High proportions of citizens of Missouri are not ready to invest in higher education unless it can be tied into jobs.

[Approximately 1:00 p.m.]

Return to General Discussion about Budget

At this point, the student responses at Rolla have been really good, they are very concerned with the future of higher education. UM is concerned if there are cuts, will the Board of Curators ask for an increase in tuition? If we get a large cut, then on balance how do we deal with this? How do we spread the decrease in financial support around without putting it on the backs of students?

We need to identify what we want to support. There are some things that we do not want to do because it will affect our core. We need to think about this two dimensionally. We need to be sure that we do not fall into the trap of not doing anything until the sky is falling. The Chancellor’s and their staffs have been thinking about how their institutions will handle cuts. President Forsee has met with Governor Nixon and finds him very supportive of higher education. Nixon is working on withholdings for ’09 and the budget cuts for ’10 and ’11. At the end of the day he is dealing with the budget deficit. There is no magic box. We must be proactive so that we can do things smarter. President Forsee will testify to Senate next Thursday. The System is planning to capture some data to support higher education. We have currently got some savings we can show. It is important that we have an open line of communication.

In approximately one week we should hear about withholding for ’09. President Forsee will set up a “Town Hall” meeting on each campus in the month of February in order to meet with the entire campus community. The President would like everyone to know the role the General Assembly will play. People in the General Assembly do not understand what the University of Missouri System has had to do to survive low budget dollars from the state. We are going to have to make things more transparent so that we can show the sacrifices we have made. Legislators do understand how higher education impacts economic development. The more we can do to
show the impact, the more support we will have. This has been a test of leadership, prioritization, and resource allocation.

One of the IFC members asked if we tell enough stories. KC did some publicity on VETS coming back to the KC area and how higher education was impacting them. We need to stress what a cut could mean to individuals trying to get back into school. We need to have legislators at commencement so that they can see their constituents graduating. MU sends out a note to the legislators about awards students in their districts receive.

The President was recognized for doing a good job with the budget and was commend for the Town Hall idea.

The question was raised, will there be any warning? Answer – at any time we should hear about the withholding, by January 27 –Feb 1 we should hear about ’10.

[1:45 Forsee Leaves the Meeting]

[Reconvene IFC]

Chair Speck asked VP Krawitz to stay and explain the flip chart President Forsee had used. There followed a discussion with VP Krawitz on budget projections and anticipated budget deficits at UM.

Graham shared that we need to keep planning for a budget deficit, conserve our cash, and cut our expenditures.

A question was asked about PeopleSoft and Assistant Vice President Smith replies that they still have a lot of problems with PS.

Chair Speck asks about the retirement funds and VP Krawitz replies that right now it is okay but cannot predict what markets will do.

Chair Speck asks for questions.

The question was asked what specifically are the problems with PS. In St. Louis the student module is causing many problems. They are beginning to talk about the need for another upgrade.
Graham asked again if it would be possible for the IFC to hold their meetings via conference calls, ITV, etc.? Again, IFC members stated that face-to-face meetings with the President were extremely important.

There was discussion about IFC expenses (travel/lunch). The decision was to continue meeting with the President in Columbia.

[Adjourn]