Intercampus Faculty Council Meeting
March 21, 2012, TelePresence

IFC faculty attendance: Harry Tyrer (C), Leona Rubin (C), Michael Murray (StL), Gary Ebersole (K.C.), Michael Davis (R), Joe Parcell (C), Steve Moehrle (StL), Carole McArthur (K.C.), Nancy Stancel (K.C.), K.M. Isaac (R), and S.N. Balakrishnan (R).

Discussion with President Wolfe

Domestic Partner Benefits:
This issue is long overdue and we will discuss it this year at the BOC. It is an important topic because it puts us in competition with our peers for faculty and staff talent. We also compete for talent with private industry. Discussion centered on the old definition of family as a social unit and how it has been transformed. IFC recognizes that there are costs associated with this benefit. Three of the campuses have passed resolutions in support of domestic partner benefits and the fourth campus will be discussing it at its next Faculty meeting. MAFS provided a letter of support from all of the public 4-year higher education institutions and it is waiting to see how we proceed.

President Wolfe stated that he would like systematic issues that would affect all four campuses brought to IFC so he can discuss them with the IFC representatives.

Campus Reports

MS&T
The new Chancellor will start on April 2nd. The campus is hosting the Board of Curators meeting April 5 & 6. The faculty is discussing the domestic partner benefits issue.

UMSL
The campus is working on its strategic plan and it believes that across the board cuts will not work. Budget meetings will continue on April 2 and 13th. The meetings are targeted at mergers and the increase in class sizes. We are currently in the process of polling faculty on committee service and calling for reports from committees. Our Faculty Senate meeting times will interfere with IFC dates so we are trying to determine who will attend which meetings.

UMC
The campus plan just came out along with the campus climate reports. Next year campus will try to combine these two reports. We had considerable discussion about the Faculty Responsibility Committee and its actions as defined in the UMC by-laws. The bylaws do not indicate what the level of proof should be. It is not clear if we should try to define it. The campus is looking at a way to memorialize students who served in the military. There was concern that the NSEI program may be discontinued but there is still discussion pending. There was particular concern for students as its discontinuation would mean there would be no home for their grants and contracts.
UMKC
The Faculty Senate is helping to lead general education reform on campus. We are setting up in Faculty Senate a General Education Committee next month. The Budget Committee has been very active and is making decisions driven by academic issues. There is a proposal to align our spring break with local school systems.

Inside Higher Ed, “We’re Losing Our Minds’ by Doug Lederman, February 9, 2012
There was discussion about this article which addressed the possibility of three-year degree programs. IFC discussed the need to focus on preparing the students in “critical thinking.” The problem is how do you access critical thinking in a class of 110 students? And, how much time do students work outside of the classroom? It is difficult to access academic performance and we need a program for new faculty teaching support. There are tools such as “Essay Grader” that can help evaluate critical thinking.

Librarian Faculty Status
The revised CRR NTT Faculty document has gone through legal counsel and it is ready to go. It will be reissued as a Presidential Executive Order. V.P. Graham is meeting with Librarians’ Council at UMKC on April 9th. They will review faculty policies on leaves and benefits at that time.

Meeting adjourns.