Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC)
Meeting
December 12, 2012 (10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)
Columbia, Missouri

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Present for the opening executive session discussions were Harry Tyrer, Gary Ebersole, Nancy Stancel, Kattesh Katti, Susan Brownell, Chris Spiller, Mark Fitch, S.N. (Bala) Balakrishnan.

Steve Graham, Christa Weisbrook joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

I. Collected Rules and Regulations

310.015: Procedures for Review of Faculty Performance

320.035: Policy and Procedures for Promotion and Tenure

320.090: Emeritus Designation

The Council discussed proposed changes in the above policies and procedures. These changes are designed to address departments that do not have the critical mass of faculty at levels to which members are to be promoted and/or assessed. VP Graham encouraged the Council to distribute the respective drafts to faculty to solicit views. The draft will be further reviewed by UM Legal Counsel before being returned to the IFC for final endorsement at the February IFC meeting.

The Council spoke about the larger question of post-tenure review procedures. The Council agreed that this is a key question that warrants being an agenda item for a future IFC meeting or meetings.

II. Academic Calendar Issues

UMKC wished to start its academic year in 2014 on a different day then the other three campuses and not on the day prescribed by the collected rules and regulations. The IFC viewed an exception for UMKC as acceptable. To this end, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow UMKC to adopt their alternative start date in the 2014-2015 academic year.

III. Trimesters

The IFC has been investigating the viability of the trimester model. UMKC remains intrigued by the concept while the other three campuses favor simply offering a robust summer schedule of classes.
The IFC encouraged UMKC to entertain the notion should they choose. It was argued that there are two benefits to having UMKC do so should they choose to. First, students wishing to matriculate under the trimester model could be shepherded to UMKC. Second, the UMKC experience would serve as a pilot test for the trimester model.

IV. Tasks Identified by Discussions with Faculty Last Year

Balancing faculty workload and mentoring new faculty are matters that identified by the system’s academic affairs staff as warranting discussion. This discussion was postponed because of time availability. The matters are tabled pending discussion at future IFC meetings.

V. Budget and 2014 Budget Assumptions

[Nikki Krawitz joined the meeting at 11:15 a.m.] Higher education continues to be a shrinking state priority with a shrinking budget. In 1990, higher education received over 15% of the state’s general revenue. Now, higher education receives less than 11% of the general revenue. State appropriations per FTE student in Missouri have fallen from $10,462 in 2001 to $6,643 today. State support for higher education in Missouri is significantly lower than comparator states (e.g., Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Tennessee). To match the national average, Missouri would have to increase funding for higher education by about $500 million. Hence, balancing the UM budget is a challenge.

The current budget has a shortfall of approximately $35 million. Actions to address the shortfall include: workforce reductions via unfilled open positions ($11.5 million); reductions in general revenue funding of auxiliaries, centers, research; consolidation of an academic program; reductions in other operating costs; reduction in planned initiatives ($7.8 million); financial aid management ($1.6 million); and revenue enhancements ($9.7 million).

The budget outlook for fiscal 2014-2015 will require us to control the rate of increase in expenses relative to revenues. State support is expected to be flat and we have constraints on tuition increases. Expense increases are expected for increases in salaries and wages, increases in medical benefits, increases in required contributions to the retirement fund, and increases in maintenance and repair. Vice President Nikki Krawitz encouraged faculty to help to identify inefficiencies and redundancies that could be corrected with little impact on our research, teaching, and service missions. She emphasizes that the faculty are in the best position to identify such opportunities for savings.

[President Tim Wolfe joined the meeting at 12:00]
VI. Strategic Planning Update

Vice President Krawitz and President Wolfe provided an update on the strategic planning currently underway in the system. The President has requested that the system administrators develop three to five potential criteria for strategic financial investment. Potential criteria include measurable and significant impact on strategy (return on investment); high degree of innovation; campus priority as evidenced by an investment match; critical need to achieve the objective; cross campus initiative; and the strategy should be able to be sustained as a productive initiative and even replicated on the other campuses.

(Nikki Krawitz exited the meeting at 1:03 p.m.)

VII. Campus Reports

Kansas City: Gary Eberson provided the update from the Kansas City campus. The campus is conducting an overhaul of its general education curriculum. The faculty senate approved the renaming of the University’s nursing college to the college of nursing and health sciences. The University has worked hard on upgrading its assessment processes across schools and colleges. The general impression about campus is that the upgrades have been successful and valuable for the students.

Rolla: Bala Balakrishnan provided the update from the Rolla campus. Garmin is opening a software innovation facility on campus. On the negative side, the campus has had technology security issues in recent months.

Columbia: Harry Tyrer provided the update from the Columbia campus. Columbia has had several faculty members receive distinguished international recognition in recent weeks. The Faculty Council is working to gain a more active role in the budgeting process on the Columbia campus.

St. Louis: Chris Spilling provided the update from the St. Louis campus. A veteran’s center was opened on campus in the previous week. The opening was very well attended. Two large constructions projects have been approved – the Benton/Stadler project and the recreation facility. The freshmen legislators toured campus recently. The campus is in its jubilee (50th) year. Several exciting programs are underway.

VIII. Role of IFC / Faculty Governance in Practice

The IFC continued its discussion of the role of the IFC (as a voice for faculty) in the shared governance system for the UM System. Vice President Graham shared the verbiage from the system’s collected rules and regulations, which provide high level guidance on the role of the IFC (faculty) in the shared governance system. The IFC will at the very least institute an annual session on shared
governance at its first meeting of each academic year. This session will reinforce both the opportunities and responsibilities of faculty and administrators inherent in shared governance. Members of the IFC expressed a desire to form a subcommittee to draft additional guidance on the matter. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting of the IFC.

IX. Governmental Relations Update

Steve Knorr updated the IFC on the state of governmental affairs in Missouri. The recent elections showed no clear leader in terms of party affiliation. We will be working closely with both parties to advance the state of our University. The Missouri House of Representatives is currently comprised of 110 Republicans and 53 Democrats. Of these 163 representatives, 51 are freshmen legislators. A positive development is that we have an alumnus from each of our campuses holding seats in the Missouri Senate.

Tax revenues are down at the state level. To wit, revenues remain $600 million less than pre-2008 levels.

X. Other business

A call for other business was made. No requests came forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.