Intercampus Faculty Council
Conference Call
January 2, 2013

Present:
UM System Representatives: President Tim Wolfe, Steve Graham, Christa Weisbrook

IFC Members: S.N. (Bala) Balakrishnan, Susan Brownell, Michael Davis, Gary Ebersole, Mark Fitch, Kattesh Katti, Dennis Miller, Steve Moehrle, Chris Spilling, Harry Tyrer

IFC Members not present: Nancy Stancel, Carole McArthur

The call was commenced at 10:02 CST.

UM President Tim Wolfe welcomed everyone to the call and then announced that the system will be announcing several organizational changes imminently. First, a national search will be conducted to identify a Vice President to oversee Academic Affairs, Research, and Economic Development. This position will report to the System President. The individual will also oversee the strategic planning process. The Academic Affairs and Economic Development groups led by Steve Graham and Mike Nichols, respectively will report to this individual. It is expected that it will take approximately six months to hire the new Vice President.

Second, President Wolfe announced that System Vice President of Finance Nikki Krawitz will be retiring effective June 2013. Upon her retirement, the current strategic planning process will be led by the newly hired Vice President discussed above. A search will be conducted to replace Nikki.

Third, Steve Knorr will be assuming the redesigned position of Vice President of University Relations. This group will be responsible for all of the University’s strategic communications, relations, and governmental affairs activities.

President Wolfe invited any questions. The first question pertained to the net financial impact of the organizational redesign. President Wolfe indicated that this will ultimately be a cost neutral reorganization. The additional salary incurred for the Vice President position will be offset by unfilled positions throughout the central administration.

Several participants indicated support for the overall vision. One member commented that alignment of research with economic development is long overdue and that he hopes to find this “machinery” to be seamless as soon as possible. Another questioner emphasized the importance of identifying a uniquely talented individual as this position requires a very broad skill set. Along those lines, it was asked whether this person will have an academic background. President Wolfe indicated that the person most
likely will come from an academic background. President Wolfe also acknowledged the broad nature of the position and indicated that the person will be compensated commensurate with the responsibility.

Another questioner referred to an earlier statement that the new VP would work to ensure that the allotment of resources in the academic units is aligned with the strategic plan. The questioner wondered whether this implied that the new Vice President would be able to influence decision-making within the academic units. The President replied that the reorganization is not designed to create a significant shift toward system control of the academic units. Of course, the new VP will work in a collaborative manner with the campuses’ respective Provosts. To this end, President Wolfe expects that a collaborative nature would be a crucial quality for the person hired to fill this position.

To conclude the call, President Wolfe asked if the group was comfortable with a public announcement today or tomorrow. No objection was voiced.

The call concluded at 10:35 CST.