

MUW Faculty Senate  
September 28, 2012

Members Present: Royal Toy, Beverly Joyce, Kimberly Dorsey, Rick Montalto, Robin Spann (for Janice Giallourakis), Youn Mi Lee, Paul Mack, Jiben Roy, Nancy Wheeley, Clara Rustin, Terri Hamill, Marie Byrne, David Carter, Bryan Hillard, Barry Smith, Randall Foxworth

Members Absent: Joshua Oubre, Andrew Luccasen

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 12:15 in Stark 101.
2. Approval of minutes: After minutes from the August 24, 2012 meeting were reviewed, Paul Mack motioned to approve them. Barry Smith seconded the motion. The Senate voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

3. Requests for funding:

Fund A: Marie Byrne at Level Two (\$250); Andrew Luccasen at Level One (\$350); Beverly Joyce at Level One (\$350); Johanna Price at Level Two (\$250); Lynn Hanson at Level Two (\$250); Donna Burlingame at Level Two (\$250); Deborah Miranda at Level Two (\$250, applied for level one but more appropriate at level two); James Ward at Level One (\$350); Carmen Osburn at Level One (\$200 due to depletion of funds). An application by Brenda Dickey at Level Three was denied due to lack of funds and a previous award this academic year. Julia Mortyakova applied at Level One but was denied due to lack of funds.

Fund A: Depleted

Fund B: \$2,000; typically one award of \$1,000 and two of \$500 each

Royal Toy has asked Dr. Heimmermann for more money for Fund A, and \$2,000 was granted to the Senate. Randall Foxworth motioned to approve the requests for funding, and Paul Mack seconded the motion. The Senate voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

4. Updates:

- a. Administrative Council Report – The enrollment is flat, perhaps due to a large graduating class last year. They discussed the new funding formula that IHL is developing and noted that IHL is looking at the Tennessee formula. Representatives from Foundations thanked the faculty and staff for participating in its recent Foundation drive.
- b. Expanded President's Cabinet Report – They, too, discussed the IHL funding reformulation. They believe that the formula will look at graduation rates, GPAs, enrollment, and diversity factors. The Cabinet believes that MUW leads in several of these categories. Larry Jones asserted that we needed to increase enrollment in online courses to maintain and stabilize funding. IHL has hired a consulting firm to help with funding formula; a representative from the consulting firm may be on campus in October. Larry Jones gave a technology update. We

have an option to purchase a license to be on the Mission network to connect us to Jackson. T-3 has been installed in Tupelo; Poindexter still needs wireless.

c. Academic Council – Our admission requirements for transfer students are higher than what IHL requires (IHL – 2.0 on core curriculum; MUW – 2.0 cumulative GPA). Admissions will look at transfer students on a case by case basis when students come in with low cumulative GPAs until we receive a final ruling by IHL on whether universities can have admission standards higher than those set by IHL.

d. PIE Council – Carla Lowry reported on enrollment for this academic year. The highlights are that the FTE is up slightly, ACT scores are up slightly, first-time degree seeking freshmen are up slightly, first-time degree seeking transfer students are up slightly. Carla Lowry also reported on the 2012 Commencement Survey results. The highlights here were that the university ranks very high in the following areas: intellectual growth, instruction in student's major, student's present attitude toward her degree, written communication skills, quality faculty-student interaction, overall collegiate experience, and personalized learning environment. Food service ranked the lowest, but its score was still not bad.

The SACSCOC Re-affirmation process was discussed, in particular the creation a FAQ page for the website.

PS #3301 was reviewed with minor editorial changes made.

e. Monthly Meeting with the President – The university is looking at building usages currently, and until this is completed we may not have a permanent meeting site. We have reserved Stark 101 for the rest of this year for our meetings.

Faculty salaries are still up in the air due to the reformulation of IHL funding. Either Dr. Borsig, Dr. Heimmermann, and/or Nora Miller will attend the October meeting to discuss funding issues.

Health care plans for faculty and staff were discussed with the acknowledgement that we were paying more out of pocket by being a part of the State health plan rather than having a plan for just the university.

Campus safety was discussed; Chief Patton will be on duty next week. Parking issues were also discussed with some lots under utilized and other areas in need of more parking. An ad hoc committee on parking may be formed. The ad hoc committee on athletics has finished the first phase recommending that MUW investigate to see if bringing back athletics is possible for MUW. The committee is defining questions to ask in order to investigate in areas that may allow athletics to return. There will be a new phase to answer these questions.

f. Monthly Meeting with the Provost – Dr. Heimmermann is considering establishing a position of Provost Fellow, a faculty member who is investigating, proposing, and/or undertaking worthy projects on campus. The Provost welcomes proposals. Royal Toy questioned the Provost on PS #1310 to find out if it is Fund B. If so, fund B is not funded according to the policy.

## 5. Old Business

a. QEP – Royal reminded us to participate in the QEP process.

b. New Faculty Orientation – Various Senators reported on their findings and the general consensus was that an extended program throughout the year was needed. Kimberly Dorsey shared the list of workshops offered her first year of employment. The exact parameters and particulars are not fully developed yet, but Faculty Senate will write up a statement that may be sent to the Provost.

Some preliminary ideas include the following:

- Lunch-time sessions were the best; perhaps these could be catered to entice participation
- This was ultimately the Provost's responsibility – not Human Resources as the Orientation is currently
- This should be non-mandatory
- A Blackboard site could be utilized with FAQ about the university
- A mentorship program could be valuable
- The various workshops could be filmed for a webinar for those who could not attend
- Some topics were proposed:
  - An introduction to health plans and retirement plans
  - The General Education Curriculum – What is it?
  - Introduction to the buildings on campus
  - Who are MUW students?
  - Promotion and tenure

c. Evaluation of Department Chairs – The consensus was that we needed a policy that outlined the evaluation of department chairs. The Senators were encouraged to review PS #6705 to see if this policy could be adjusted or if a new policy should be written. This will be addressed further at the October meeting.

d. Term-limit for Department Chairs – The Senators were split on whether or not to advocate for terms or term limits for chairs. They generally agreed that a policy was needed on this, but further discussion and investigation is needed before formulating a particular stand.

e. UN Class for Transfer Students – The Senators generally agreed that an entire class was unnecessary and even noted that a previous attempt at a UN 101 class for transfer students had failed. Someone suggested that this is the purview of the Center for Academic Excellence.

6. New Business

- a. Cancellation of PS #1101 – There was no opposition to the cancellation of this policy.
  - b. Senate Procedure: Online or Email Voting – The Senators agreed that this was unnecessary.
  - c. Academic Dishonesty Policy – Royal Toy briefed the Senators on the proposed changes to the Academic Dishonesty Policy (which is not official university policy), notably the requirement that all faculty report every instance of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Dr. Heimmermann expressed a desire to eliminate some of the cases that came before the Academic Standards Board. The Senators were split on the best way to deal with issues of academic dishonesty and the dissolution of the faculty requirement. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.
7. Announcements – The next meeting will be on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 in Stark 101.
8. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 pm.