Faculty Council Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2014

Submitted by Tim Melchert, Council Chair

Members present: Sharon Chubbock, Tim Melchert (chair), Scott Mandernack, Jim Marten, Bharatendu Srivastavia, Darren Wheelock, Lynn Whittenberger, Mary Jo Wiemiller

1. The next Faculty Council meeting is rescheduled for April 24 because the April 17 was inadvertently scheduled to fall on the first day of the MU Easter Holiday.
2. The Council gave extended consideration to the possible reorganization of the standing committees that report to the Academic Senate. Below is a draft summary of that discussion to be considered further at the next Council meeting.

Faculty Council Proposal Regarding the Reorganization of Standing Committees Reporting to the University Academic Senate

Draft 3/20/14 (TM)

The rationale for recommending a restructuring of the standing committees that report to the University Academic Senate (UAS) is based on three main concerns: (1) there have been numerous complaints that there are too many committees that faculty need to cover, an issue which is especially problematic for those in smaller colleges; (2) the work of some of the committees has not been particularly substantive; and (3) multiple committees with similar or overlapping responsibilities may result in a diffusion of responsibility and less effective advocacy of faculty concerns and interests. To address these concerns, the Faculty Council recommends that the standing committees that report to the UAS be reorganized along the lines described below. It is believed that the proposed reorganization of these committees will result in better representation of faculty concerns, improved analysis and review of questions that arise, more efficient and productive use of faculty members’ time, and ultimately in more effective shared governance.

Further analysis of the details involved in implementing the recommendations found below is needed before revisions to the UAS statutes can be prepared. If approved by the UAS before the end of this Spring, 2014 semester, the Faculty Council should be charged at the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year with further study of these recommendations so that draft revisions of the Senate Statutes can be prepared by the end of the Fall, 2014 semester. The UAS can then consider these revisions at the beginning of the Spring, 2015 semester for possible approval and implementation of the reorganized committee structure for the 2015-16 academic year (i.e., changes would need to be made before committee elections were held in the Spring, 2015 semester).
The Faculty Council makes the following recommendations.

1. **Faculty Council**
   a. Increase the size of the Faculty Council (FC) from 13 members currently (3 Senators, 9 at-large full-time faculty members, and 1 at-large part-time faculty members) to 15 [up to 20?] members. This increase is needed to achieve broader representation of faculty from across campus.
   b. One FC member will be elected from each of the 10 academic colleges and schools except for Arts and Sciences which will have 2 [3?] members. These will be supplemented with 2 [or more?] additional at-large members.
   c. [Additional possible recommendation: The FC form an Executive Committee comprised of a chair, vice-chair, and an ex-officio co-chair. The chair and vice-chair would be elected from and by the FC members, while the vice-chair of the UAS would serve ex-officio as the FC co-chair. The FC Executive Committee would be responsible for setting the agenda of the FC. The FC vice-chair would also be expected to assume the responsibilities of the chair the following year so that there would be greater continuity of leadership of the FC from year to year.]
   d. [The FC chair would be expected to attend the UAS meetings along with the FC co-chair to help ensure effective communication between the FC and the UAS.]

2. **Faculty Hearing Council**
   a. Continue the Faculty Hearing Committee in its current format as an independent subcommittee of the Faculty Council. The size of the committee should be decreased from 7 full-time tenured faculty members to 5 full-time tenured faculty members.
   b. [An alternative that would reduce the need for this committee altogether would be for it to become a subcommittee of the FC with its membership drawn from the members of the FC. The work load of those members would be unpredictable, however, because the number of faculty grievances lodged per year fluctuates significantly.]

3. **Committee on Academic Policies and Issues**
   a. Disband this committee. The responsibilities that currently fall under this committee would be subsumed under those of the reorganized FC.
   b. When an academic policy issue arises that requires significant analysis and review, we recommend that the FC appoint an ad hoc subcommittee comprised of FC members with interest and/or expertise in the issue to conduct that review. Their findings would then be reported back to the full FC for further review and possible action.

4. **Committee on Faculty Welfare**
   a. Disband this committee. The current responsibilities of this committee would be subsumed under those of the reorganized FC.
   b. When a faculty welfare issue arises that requires significant analysis and review, we recommend that the FC appoint an ad hoc subcommittee of FC members with
interest and/or expertise in the issue to conduct that review. Their findings would then be reported back to the full FC for further review and possible action.

5. **Committee on Faculty Welfare Subcommittee on Part-Time Faculty**
   a. We recommend that this committee remain structured largely as it is currently. It would continue to represent the same types of interests and concerns, but would report to the FC instead of the Committee on Faculty Welfare.
   b. We recommend that this subcommittee elect its own chair. The chair would also be a member of the FC [or would attend FC meetings and serve as liaison].

6. **Committee on Diversity and Equity**
   a. We recommend no changes to this committee.

7. **Committee on Committees and Elections**
   a. We recommend no changes to this committee.

The restructuring of the committees as proposed above would result in a major reduction in committee member positions. Implementing the changes found in Recommendations #1 through 4 above would result in a decrease from 39 positions currently to 20 [to 25] positions.