

# Missouri Association of Faculty Senates

Minutes -February 9, 1998 Truman  
Building Jefferson City, Missouri

Designated Voters Present: Sam Cox, Central Missouri State University; James Bell, Harris-Stowe State College; Ken Leubbering, Lincoln University; Jim Gilbert, Missouri Southern State College; Jeanie Crain, Missouri Western State College; Pat Lucido, Northwest Missouri State University; Rick Althaus, Southeast Missouri State University; Jon Nance, Southwest Missouri State University; David Nichols, Truman State University; Allen HaM, University of Missouri-Columbia; Kathy Loncar, University of Missouri-Kansas City; Gregory Gelles, University of Missouri-Rolla; Lawrence Friedma- University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Officers present: Rhonda Ridinger, President (Southwest Missouri State University); Susan Morgan, President Elect (Central Missouri State University); Rick Althaus, Secretary/treasurer, (Southeast Missouri State University); Garry Gordon, Immediate Past President (Truman State University).

Other Faculty Present: Charles Shapiro, Central Missouri State University; James Rooney, Lincoln University; Dave McLaughlin, Northwest Missouri State University; Don Ramby, University of Missouri-Columbia

## Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order by President Rhonda Ridinger at 9:00 am. The roll was called, and all member senates were represented. President Ridinger reported on the December meeting of the Executive Committee and the Governor's Conference on Higher Education. She announced upcoming CBHE meetings, and encouraged participation by associated senates. At 9: 15 the membership heard a presentation by Mr. Eldon Wallace, Associate Commissioner of the CBHE, on the higher education budget and its prospects in the legislature.

At 10: 15, Dr. Robert Stein, Associate Commissioner of the CBHE, provided a briefing on recent history regarding transfer and articulation issues. He also noted that the previous week, the House Higher Education Committee passed a resolution asking the CBHE to report on the matter in April.

Following lunch, the Designated Voters reported on issues facing the member senates:

University of Missouri-Rolla: Things are relatively peaceful. Retention is a major topic of discussion. A new recruitment director has been hired.

Central Missouri State University: The Senate is looking at improving governance, especially regarding the internal committees of the senate. The senate is studying load/tenure/promotion criteria. Some second thoughts are being had regarding decentralization, giving departments more of a voice. Distance learning and intellectual property rights are being Studied. The grade forgiveness/repeat policy is being reviewed.

Truman State University: The faculty is involved in approving courses for a new liberal Studies program. The campus discussed the Standard of evidence for dismissal for cause. . .should it be "clear and convincing" rather than the "preponderance of the evidence?" The Board adopted the faculty preference. Other items being Studied include: course repeat policy , the add/drop policy , and the development of a document for the evaluation of the president and other administrators.

Northwest Missouri State University: The university received the Missouri Quality Award for 1997. The North Central accrediting agency allowed their application to be in the same format as that of the Quality Award. The campus received a 10-year reaccreditation. The university is phasing in a trimester system. The campus is undertaking strategic planning and one new initiative on communication.

University of Missouri -Kansas City: The faculty council is working on revision of grievance procedures. One remaining issue has to do with "non-regular" faculty . The university has tightened the timeline and revised the procedures for honorary degrees. The university is conducting an NCAA and a North-Central self-study. Difficulties surround the deficit in the Division I athletic program.

University of Missouri - St. Louis: The faculty have been working on Mission Enhancement and "Work Productivity." Progress is being made on fundraising for the new performing arts center, which will prove to be costly to operate and maintain. Student Computing fees have been adopted. The senate is addressing the issue of intellectual property rights in relation to distance learning. An enrollment management task force is underway: Grade change policy is being discussed, as the Administration has been changing student grades!

University of Missouri-Columbia: A report is being prepared regarding evaluation of administrators. Implementation is being planned for next year. A permanent chancellor has been hired. The council is revising its by-laws. The campus has experienced problems with its grievance procedures. An office of Faculty Ombudsman is being developed, with an eye toward keeping some of the grievances out of the actual grievance system (the chancellor is in favor). There has been a loss of full-time, tenure-track positions to clinical, adjunct, and part-time positions. The number of administrative positions has been increasing. The chancellor knows of this and is apparently taking it seriously. The Legislature knows of this, too, and some members frown on the idea of "renta-prof." UMC retirement benefits are being discussed . (They are in their own system.) The "WF" grade may be changed to a "W" grade. The faculty will vote. One complaint is that many faculty don't get much consideration from their department chairs for doing faculty senate/committee work. The faculty appear to be in favor of the faculty curator bill pending in the legislature.

Missouri Southern State College: The issue of sick leave accrual is being discussed. They want no less than is permitted at other state institutions. The university is establishing enrollment management services. The impact of the " A+ " program on schools is being studied. There are also concerns about transfer and articulation issues.

Harris-Stowe State College: The administration has accepted that the Faculty assembly should have control over its own by-laws and procedures. Current topics include: pay/compensation, parking, control of curriculum, committee functions. There was a successful NCATE evaluation of the teacher education program.

Southwest Missouri State University: This has been a year of consolidation. A new Handbook was adopted last year, along with a policy on "Faculty Role and Rewards." There has been concern about enrollment, though there was a 10% increase in freshmen this year. The campus is implementing a new General Education program, and a service-learning program. Other items discussed include: institutional technology , distance learning. A biannual faculty morale survey has been given. The comments are usually reproduced verbatim, just before the board sets the salaries.

Missouri Western: There has been concern about retirement policy. The campus does have a sick leave accrual policy . The Senate functions largely through standing committees. The university is also working on Mission Enhancement. There is now advising being done by an intervention specialist.

Lincoln University: They have a new university president The Board seems to want to micromanage him, but he resists. The faculty think they should "wait and see." The President wants to restructure the University , feels that some administrative levels can be cut, and asked for faculty input They have hired a new Vice-President for Student Affairs from the University of Colorado.

Southeast Missouri State University: The campus is implementing the new merit pay procedures. The senate is studying university governance, with an eye toward streamlining it and making it more responsive. Other issues include: academic calendar , grade change procedures, and the appropriate use of student evaluation of instruction.

### Business Meeting

The business meeting was called to order by President Rhonda Ridinger at 2:30.

The minutes of the October 20, 1997 meeting were unanimously approved after minor corrections were made in the lists of those present. The Treasurer's report was presented. A resolution commending Garry Gordon for his outstanding leadership and effective and unselfish service was adopted unanimously.

Garry Gordon chaired a brief discussion on the recent transfer and articulation conference. Two suggestions were made regarding the draft document: to put "lower-upper" level in the catalogues, and to add dual credit. A brief report was given on the Governor's Conference on Higher Education.

The Committee on External Relations and Legislation presented a report on the progress of various versions of the faculty regent/curator bill, and all present were encouraged to contact their area legislators on the matter. In addition, the Committee presented a proposal to establish a MAPS Web Site. The Committee was instructed to begin the process of doing so, with a final Association decision on the matter to be made later.

The Committee on Faculty Status and Personnel Policies reported on several MOSERS-related issues. There is some concern that pressures may be mounting to put all universities in the same health care system.

The Committee on Membership (and By-Laws) presented a proposal to establish an Advisory Council of the last four past presidents of the Association and a member-at-large. The motion was passed.

The Chair of the Committee on Academic Programs was made available to stand for questions.

The date of October 19 was selected for the Fall Meeting, and agenda items were discussed.

Members for a nominating committee were sought.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Althaus,  
Southeast Missouri State University