

**Truman State University
Report from Faculty Senate
February 2008
Presented by Kathryn Brammall, Associate Professor of History**

A number of issues continue to be of great interest and activity on our campus:

1. Resignation of President
 - On 15 September 2008 President Dixon announced her resignation effective 15 October 2008
 - She will be replaced on an interim basis by Darryl Krueger, retired president of Winona State University and previous VPAA of Truman State University
 - She will serve for one year as a consultant to the Board of Governors
 - This announcement naturally led to questions, many of which remain unanswered. There was, however, no universal or coordinated reaction as many faculty were deeply disappointed and now have serious concerns about the future of TSU, and other faculty seem to be relieved and regard her resignation as a personal victory since they did not share her vision for the future.
 - A search for a permanent replacement has not yet commenced.
2. Academic Restructuring
 - Though there continue to be questions regarding some procedures and lines of communication, implementation of the new organizational structure based on departments, colleges, and schools is complete
 - We have had some difficulties and delays in adjusting faculty governance structures to reflect the new organization but are now proceeding with that and a faculty vote on the issue will conclude 1 October
 - the strength and effectiveness of campus communication remains a concern for many faculty, especially in light of some initiatives that were presented as *fait accomplis* by the Deans' group last spring
 - the chairs seem to have adjusted to the challenges of their jobs and have proven a strong voice for faculty concerns and in campus communication
 - we look forward to continuing improvement in these areas under the guidance of our new Provost and VPAA, Troy Paino
3. Searches for Administrators
 - In addition for the Presidential search, TSU has ongoing searches for the Dean of the College of Arts & Science and Registrar as well as an internal search for an "Assessment Specialist"
 - Once the Dean's position is filled we anticipate that searches will commence for Associate Deans; those currently filling the positions are Interim
4. Strategic Plan/the Future
 - The campus recently received a Pricing and Position Report based on an 18-month survey which lays out some serious challenges but also some exciting opportunities for the university and short-, medium-, and long-term initiatives to address the issues are being identified and considered
5. Curriculum

- The Curriculum Commission has almost completed Phase II of its charge: creating proposed curricular models that reflect the principles in the report
 - They expect to present their proposals to Undergraduate Council by the end of October and then conduct university-wide forums and conversation shortly thereafter
 - The Provost has also initiated some grants opportunities to encourage development of innovative curriculum and pedagogies: “Innovative Academic Initiatives Planning Grants” and “Student-Initiated Learning Opportunities”
6. Faculty Personnel Policy
- The committee continues communication with individual departments as they generate standards that will be used to define success as “teacher-scholars” for each department; these standards must meet the university’s guidelines and philosophy as laid out in the report of the committee but will reflect the realities of professional and disciplinary diversity that exist in the academic world
 - Though there has been great progress, work still needs to be done to ensure that the standards of individual departments are commensurate with each other; the Provost is particularly concerned that some of the first submissions seem wildly optimistic while others are too vague to allow meaningful comparison
7. Sabbatical Policy
- Analysis of the procedures and policies produced by the committee continues
8. Intellectual Diversity and Consumer Information
- A new policy on intellectual diversity and student grade appeals was passed last week
 - The committee charged with creating the consumer information vehicle brought its proposed questions to Faculty Senate last week. The questions were chosen after a student survey produced feedback. Faculty will have an opportunity to comment and suggest changes before FS votes on them next month in preparation for implementation in late November and early December
9. Initiatives for improvement of student experience
- We have a new “any-time, any-student” early warning system and implemented a summer workshop and registration for incoming students
 - Still working to address the “Truman Shuffle”; goal is to identify the cause of and alleviate the frustrations they face when trying to negotiate university bureaucratic practices and policies