

## **Faculty Senate Report to the Missouri Association of Faculty Senates**

**Truman State University**

**October 5, 2012**

**Submitted by: James Guffey, Professor of Mathematics**

### **Important motions/issues addressed by the Faculty Senate**

- Consulted strongly with President Paino on the university financial exigency policy that has now been adopted by the Board of Governors at their June 2012 meeting.
- The Board of Governors agreed to hear from faculty concerning the university's policy on domestic partners. The Board continues to consider the matter.
- Consulted with President Paino concerning a new comprehensive vision statement. It is intended to provide strong guidance to decision-making, particularly as we navigate difficult financial times.

### **Important campus news**

- Our new Provost, Dr. Joan Poor, started July 1. She is from Bemidji State University.
- Tuition and fees increased for FY13 by the following amounts: 3% for Missouri resident undergraduates, 3.2% for out of state undergraduates, and 3.2% increase for graduate students.
- Recall that we approved a pilot run of HLTH 198 Lifetime Health and Fitness for Spring, 2012 as part of our participation in Governor Nixon's Course Redesign Initiative. We have just heard preliminary results of the analysis on its outcomes and effectiveness. Comparisons of objective test scores showed the new course to be slightly lower, but comparable, to the old one. Some positive gains in areas beyond those scores were noted for the new course. We are told that the new course is, however, much more difficult to manage.

### **Benefits information – update, changes**

- Health insurance rates for 2013 are undetermined at this time. We are told to expect double-digit increases, however.
- The Board of Governors adopted a change to the Faculty and Staff Discount for Enrollment Fees policy: it is now limited to children under the age of 25, it is made available to retirees with a minimum of 15 years of service, and there is a one-year waiting period for all new full-time employees hired after September 1, 2012.

### **Salary information – update, changes**

- Faculty and staff received a 2.5% salary increase for FY13.

### **Budget information – for the current fiscal year**

- After preparing ourselves for over 7% cut, 1% is manageable. His committee, the Guiding Coalition, has met many times to help forge our strategy for responding to continued reductions in state support. That work has resulted in the vision statement mentioned earlier.
- There is much concern about the potential changes in the funding formula for higher education. President Paino has already testified on Truman's behalf.