General Faculty Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2008

125 Civil Engineering, 4:00 P.M.

I. Call-to-Order: Chancellor John Carney III called the meeting of the General Faculty to order at 4:00 P.M.

II. Announcements – none

III. Chancellor Carney recognized Professor Kelvin Erickson for the presentation of a memorial resolution in honor of Gary Thomas. It was moved that the memorial resolution be incorporated in the faculty meeting minutes with copies forwarded to family members. The motion was approved (see Attachment A).

IV. Chancellor Carney called for approval of the minutes of the December 4, 2007 and February 14, 2008 meetings. The minutes were approved as circulated.

V. Unfinished Business – none

VI. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

   A. Campus Tenure Committee – Election for representatives to U-wide Tenure Committee

      Professor Bruce McMillin presented candidates for the U-wide Tenure Committee and distributed ballots. The following faculty were elected:

      University-Wide Tenure – Ralph Alexander
      Cihan Dagli (Alternate)

   B. Faculty Senate

      Professor Frank Blum presented Jay Goff as a nominee for new membership to General Faculty. Motion was approved.

VII. New Business

   A. Approval of candidates for degrees.

      It was moved and seconded that the names on the previously circulated list of candidates for degrees May 16 and May 17, 2008, be approved, subject to successful completion of any remaining degree requirements. Motion was approved. (One additional name was added by Professor Frimpong at the meeting).

      It was moved and seconded that a BS degree in Civil Engineering be awarded posthumously to Jeremy Schottel at the May 2008 commencement. Motion was approved.
B. Recognition of Faculty Patent Awards. Provost Wray recognized the following:

U.S. Patent No. 7,241,371
“Additive-Assisted, Cerium-Based, Corrosion-Resistant E-Coating”
James O. Stoffer

U.S. Patent No. 7,332,938
“Domino Logic Testing Systems and Methods”
Waleed K. Al-Assadi, Ph.D.

U.S. Patent No. 7,354,657
“Integral Channels in Metal Components and Fabrication Thereof”
Rajiv S. Mishra

U.S. Patent No. 7361261
“Enantiospecific Catalysts Prepared By Chiral Deposition”
Jay A. Switzer and Eric W. Bohannan

C. Chancellor’s Report

Chancellor Carney gave an abbreviated presentation and directed the faculty to visit the web for his April 23 “State of the University” address to the campus.

Chancellor Carney briefly reviewed tenure/tenure track faculty hires during Fall 2008. There have been 16 positions filled (6 female and 10 male, 1 is an underrepresented minority). There are 9 searches in process.

Chancellor Carney reported that due to the large graduating class the Master’s and PhD ceremony will be Friday, May 16 and the Undergraduate ceremony will be on Saturday, May 17. William A. Wulf will be the speaker and honorary degree recipient.

D. Faculty Senate President’s Report

Faculty Senate President Blum reviewed the challenges of the past year with the campus restructuring and the by-law changes. He thanked the members of the Faculty Senate (especially RP&A, and the chairs of the Tenure and Curriculum Committees) and the administration for their cooperation. Possible by-law changes related to some standing committees are planned for the Fall. Faculty Senate committees are reviewing submissions of Special Programs.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.

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Laura K. Stoll, Secretary
Memorial Resolution

**Gary Thomas**

Chancellor Emeritus and Professor Emeritus, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dr. Gary Thomas passed away on January 1, 2008, at the age of 70. He served as Chancellor of UMR from 2000 – 2005. From the start, he proclaimed that his goal for the institution was “enrollment, enrollment, and enrollment.” In spite of a difficult period of large state budget cuts, he created a new enrollment management initiative that saw the university’s enrollment increase 18% during his tenure – at a time when engineering enrollments were decreasing nationwide. He also helped secure major donations for Toomey Hall and Havener Center, among many others. He supported broadening the university’s educational offerings in distance education, graduate certificate programs, and new degree programs. It is clear that the university’s stature and prospects have benefited from his visionary, courageous leadership.

Dr. Thomas was also an instrumental Provost for New Jersey Institute of Technology, where he led a dramatic growth in their research expenditures and a doubling of their Ph.D. productivity. The Gary Thomas Doctoral Fellowship endowment was created at that institution in his honor. At NJIT he was also Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Science and Liberal Arts.

Prior to joining NJIT, Dr. Thomas served as Chair of Electrical Engineering, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and Chair for the Energy Technology Laboratory at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. His many board positions included chairing the Public Service Electric & Gas Research Advisory Committee, the Board of Directors of the Transportation Research Consortium, and the Kessler Medical Rehabilitation Research & Education Corp.

He also produced a multimillion-dollar research portfolio, was co-editor of the *Fundamentals Handbook of Electrical and Computer Engineering*, and contributed to many books and publications. He earned his bachelor’s in electrical engineering in 1960, his master’s in physics in 1962 and his Ph.D. in electrical engineering and computer science in 1967, all at the University of California at Berkeley.

Dr. Thomas was a gracious host and particularly enjoyed the annual Easter Egg hunt. He was an avid gardener and multifaceted intellectual. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Barbara Tedesco, Associate Dean of Management at NJIT; four children, Katelin Thomas, Ellie Thomas, Derek Thomas, and Jennifer Tedesco; three grandchildren, Gwyneth and Caleb Foley and Ahsaan Cauley; his sister Lois Innes; his brother, Donald Thomas; and many nieces and nephews.

We request that this memorial resolution be incorporated into the official minutes of the Missouri S&T General Faculty Meeting of May 6, 2008 and that copies be sent to Dr. Thomas’s wife and children.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald C. Wunsch II, Mary K. Finley Missouri Distinguished Professor
Kelvin Erickson, Chair, Electrical and Computer Engineering