

General Faculty Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2022

Butler-Carlton Hall and zoom 4:00 P.M.

- I. Call-to-Order, Chancellor Dehghani called the meeting of the General Faculty to order at 4:03 P.M.
- II. Chancellor Dehghani called for approval of the minutes of the May 3, 2022 meeting. The minutes were approved as circulated.
- III. There was no unfinished business
- IV. Chancellor Dehghani introduced the Officers of the General Faculty
Chancellor Mohammad Dehghani
President of Faculty Senate Kathleen Sheppard
Secretary Deanne Jackson's last meeting as Dave Westenberg will be taking over as Faculty Senate Secretary which will also include General Faculty meetings.
Parliamentarian Mike Gosnell
- V. Reports of Standing and Special Committees – None
- VI. Introduction of New Faculty

Chancellor Dehghani called on provost Potts to introduce each new faculty member.

Provost Potts introduced Mehrzad Boroujerdi as the new Vice Provost and Dean of College of Arts, Sciences, and Education. Dr. Boroujerdi was traveling and unable to be present.

Department of Biological Sciences:

- Andrea Scharf, Assistant Professor

Department of English and Technical Communication:

- Ryan Cheek, Assistant Professor

Department of Mathematics and Statistics:

- Xiaoming Wang, Havener Chair and Professor

Department of Physics:

- Kyuil Cho, Senior Research Associate
- Halyna Hodovanets, Assistant Professor
- Hyunsoo Kim, Assistant Professor

Provost Potts introduced David Borrok as the new Interim Vice Provost and Dean of College of Engineering and Computing

Department of Geosciences and Geological and Petroleum Engineering:

- Mehrnaz Siah, Senior Research Associate

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering:

- Mohammad Abbas, Assistant Teaching Professor
- Richard Billo, Professor and Director, Kummer Institute Center for Advanced Manufacturing

- Xiaosong Du, Assistant Professor
- David Viganò, Assistant Professor

Department of Mining and Explosives Engineering:

- Alexander Douglas, Assistant Teaching Professor

Provost Potts introduced Susan Murray as the new Interim Vice Provost and Dean of Kummer College of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development

Department of Business and Information Technology:

- David Bojanic, Kummer Professor
- Cui (Tracy) Zou, Assistant Teaching Professor

Department of Economics:

- Melody Lo, Steinmeyer Memorial Endowed Chair and Professor

Department of Engineering Management and Systems Engineering:

- Javier Valentin-Sivico, Assistant Teaching Professor

VII. New Business

A. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Dehghani, opened with statement regarding how Covid hit our university hard with a \$31 million bill to reimburse students for their housing and meal plans. In addition, any faculty who were close to retirement were identified and incentivized to retire to help cover this deficit. This was happening not only in Rolla but all over the country so now that universities are regaining strength, there is a hiring frenzy. We are actively trying to hire faculty lines where we can. You are encouraged to ask your colleagues to apply.

Continuing with our North Star goals of Carnegie R-1 university, top 100 ranking and 12,000 enrollments. Currently our students have a \$29,005 average debt when leaving the university which is less than half of the average student salary. Student salaries average \$72,600 for undergraduate, \$79,464 average for master's degree and \$98,780 for average PhD starting salary. Our employer satisfaction is 100% and students are averaging 6.8 job offers. Our top salary offer for an undergraduate was reported at \$140,000. This is incredible for our students and for our university.

We continue with our current capital projects which include the innovation lab, welcome center and the Missouri protoplex. The innovation lab will be completed by October 2023, with the welcome center schedule to complete December 2024 and finally the protoplex completion date of September 2025. If you have not had a chance, please take a walk by the power plant as it is coming down fast. The west wall has already been razed. The power plant was built in 1945 and has a massive tunneling system underground around campus that carried the steam pipes. Chancellor Dehghani hopes that a historian will someday write about the progress of this campus that includes the power plant to the new changes with the capital projects.

Future capital projects include the expansion of the Engineering Research Lab, Innovation campus building (Arc Jet Facility) and the BIO X building. We have a group that is working with Jefferson City to gain more funding and it is looking promising.

The Missouri Protoplex will be the crown jewel for all our academic programs. The idea behind the protoplex is to help small companies with large scale projects. It will include its own technology staff. These will be dedicated technical staff that ensure the projects we are working on have the necessary technology needed.

The BIO X building is to have a protoplex like the manufacturing protoplex but for medical related industries. We know that Phelps Health, MU School of Medicine and Washington School of Medicine are very interested in participating with us. Chancellor Dehghani will be presenting this to the Board of Curators soon.

As we work to enhance Missouri's manufacturing competitiveness our key research centers will be critical. These include Kummer Institution Center for Advanced Manufacturing, Peaslee Steel Manufacturing Research Center and the Center for Aerospace Manufacturing Technologies. In addition, a new degree program is in the works. We currently have the Masters of Science in Manufacturing Engineering but soon we will add a Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering. Our top industrial research partners have contributed \$6M to pour Protoplex.

S&T BIO X initiative includes 20 faculty conducting research. With this initiative we can solidify our pathway to R1 as we grow more PhD programs in non-engineering fields. Medicine is still under engineered, and our current partners of Phelps Health, UM Medical centers and Washington University all understand this. In addition, women and minority students gravitate to the bio medical field and life science programs.

Our current bio-related research includes traumatic brain injury, nanoparticle drug delivery systems, bio-active glass for health applications, artificial intelligence and organ transplant decision, framework for estimating personalized geonomy variants of hypertension for precision medicine and music therapy and cognitive impairment.

Future initiatives include radiation science for health applications, medical data analytics, bioinformatics, biosynthesis for manufacturing, bio-inspired/bio-mimetic materials and design, degrees in Bioengineering and rural health care.

This ended the presentation and Chancellor Dehghani entertained questions. Matt Insall spoke to thank the chancellor for recognizing that unfunded research does matter. Then asked the question pertaining to the reduction of degree hours for academic programs. Chancellor Dehghani reiterated that unfunded research is beneficial, but it does not take the place of funded research and then asked for Provost Potts to answer the question during his presentation.

B. Provost Report

Provost Potts started his presentation by again mentioning the North Star goals which include making us the destination of choice for students with an enrollment goal of 12,000 students, a R-1 Carnegie status and a top 100 US News and World report ranking.

With a R1 status, means we are as much a creator of knowledge as must as we disseminate knowledge. We should be known as mover and shakers in research. The USNWR numbers matter as well as parents use this to start making college decisions for their children. We need to prove our value to society with these rankings.

As for being a destination of choice for students, we are all in the business of recruiting and retention. It isn't just the job of enrollment management but that we all play a vital role. Our diversity goals need to increase as well. We will never set a quota on diversity but we do want a more diverse population for both students but also including faculty and staff.

One way to make us a destination of choice is to have the programs that students want. We need to take a firm look at what we offer, what is working, what is not, and create the programs for the future. And maybe that includes more of a rejuvenating of programs and not a complete shutdown.

Our web presence also needs to be robust. Joel Burken and Audra Merfeld-Langston do a fantastic job with their web presence and promoting their programs through social media.

We also need to focus on retention and retaining those that we recruit. We had a great turnout for the recent events for students which included the JED, Equinox, Celebration of Nations, Family weekend along with new initiatives to make things easier for students such as direct admit, 5-week progress survey and the on-campus off-ramp discussions.

Now to answer Matt Insall's question, no accrediting agency is worried about the number of credit hours for degree as long as it meets minimum of 120 hours, at least in principle. Most programs range from 120-140 hours. Our initiative is to look at our current programs and ensure that the learning objectives and prerequisites are correct and needed and create value. The average 3 credit hour class includes 6 hours outside of class time for a total of 9 hours per week per class. If a student is taking 12 credit hours that is at least 36 hours of work per week which is equivalent to a full-time job. Our promise to students it that our degree should only take 4 years to complete so having programs that are in excess of 120 hours causes the student to be more than a full-time student. We just need to ensure that our requirements are reasonable.

As we focus on diversity initiatives, our current gender diversity mimics that of the 1980' of other STEM institutions. We should be progressing like other schools. We have received the 2023-2024 MoExcel grant. Our proposal was rated #3 our of 25 submitted so this could mean around \$1M in funding.

In addition, we have received the NSF ADVANCE grant. This grant will help promote women faculty including bringing guest speakers to campus to help in this journey.

We are aggressively trying to fill vacant faculty lines. We have focused on Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering this year and next year we are focusing on Computer Science. The Vice Provost and Deans of each college have the authority to hire faculty lines. We are reaching out to faculty all over to try to poach them for S&T however, equally, our faculty are also being poached so this creates difficulties in hiring. We have 5 endowed positions available but are actively recruiting 8 individuals. We are hopeful to get at least 3 of the 8.

We are also rethinking the role of the FRRC and will work to see what needs to change and how to move forward but will be seeking faculty senates consult prior to making any changes.

Kate Sheppard mentioning that Beth Chancellor, Vice Provost for Information Technology and MU CIO is retiring. Ben Canlas will be the interim and he has assured Kate that no big IT projects will happen while they are in the process of a search.

Beth Concepcion is working with Missouri Online to create new marking material that clearly outlines our campus program.

CRR 430.020, Export Control and Sanctions Compliance and CRR 310.035 are both proposed and in review.

The new by-laws passed general faculty in May and will be submitted by Chancellor Dehghani to the Board of Curators for adoption soon.

Student voting and attendance polices has been a topic of discussion. Students have asked that election day be recognized by faculty as an important day and as such, exams and quizzed not be scheduled so that students can participate in voting or working election polls. The Public Occasion committee is reviewing this currently.

The full results of the Climate Survey will be discussed in the October faculty senate meeting. The Chancellor and Provost have both received the full copy of the results.

Finally, Kate mentioned the NSF ADVANCE grant and that Jessica Cundiff is the PI along with Colin Potts.

VIII. Announcements – None

IX. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Deanne Jackson, Secretary