

College of Arts and Sciences

Council of Chairs

Minutes of the Meeting: September 9, 2009

Present

Dean Karen Vorst, presiding

Chairs: Rydberg-Cox, Breytspraak, Chen, Adegoke, Krause, Kruger, Mardikes, Martin, Mirkin, Murdock, Novak, Smith, Sturgeon, Swallow, Toivanen, Ebersole, Kilway, Koehler

Associate Deans: Fillion, Sandreczki, Vaught

Guests: Debbie Kirchhoff & Karen English, A&S Advancement

Minutes: Cyndi Mahoney

I. Updates and Announcements

A&S Mini Convocation:

Dean Vorst announced that the College would not host a mini-convocation this year. The Provost will hold a Faculty/Staff awards ceremony on February 15, 2010. More information will be announced as it becomes available.

H1N1 Influenza Information:

Dean Vorst announced that students & employees with influenza like symptoms are advised to stay home and not return to class or work until their temperature stays below 100 degrees for 24 hours without the need of fever-reducing medications. Students should be advised to isolate themselves if they have flu like symptoms and faculty should work with students by being flexible and allowing students to make up missed coursework and not to encourage students to drop the course.

Be sure that your information and that of each of your Department's faculty/ staff is current in the UMKC Alert system. This is accessed on-line through MyHR for faculty/staff. Students access this information through Pathway.

She also advised that laptops are available to faculty to use at home when they are out ill and want to keep in contact with their students.

There was some concern raised regarding the administration's expectation that faculty work from home if they are themselves home ill. Dean Vorst assured that there was no such expectation; but there needs to be a plan in place within the department to cover the classes.

She also stated that there would be money available to compensate lectures if they agree to cover a class for ill faculty. This would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Commencement Speakers:

Dean Vorst asked for suggestions for speakers at this year's commencements for December and May. She encouraged faculty to put forth names of former students who might be in the area and have had or are in the middle of a successful career.

Karen English announced that A&S 100 faculty has requested that former students be invited to speak to students enrolled in A&S 100 courses. She announced that this year's Missouri Teacher of the Year is a UMKC Sociology alum and she is currently working to have her come back to speak to students.

II. Discussion Items

Capital Campaign:

Debbie Kirchhoff & Karen English from A&S Advancement were invited to provide information about the new capital campaign that the UMKC Foundation is currently formulating.

Debbie Kirchhoff advised that the campaign will run 5 – 7 years and the goal amount will be more than our last campaign which was set at \$2 million.

Currently, she and Karen English are working with the Dean and departments to identify the needs of the College. The first draft is due to the foundation October 15, 2009. Therefore, Dean Vorst requests that chairs have their list of needs/goals to her by the end of September.

Debbie and Karen informed chairs that they would like to meet with their faculty to discuss the campaign and receive the names of any possible donors the department may have. They do ask that faculty do not contact the potential donor directly, but to supply the name and contact information to them and they will make direct contact. General categories of needs include endowed chairs, equipment, programming expenses, and space. There was open discussion regarding raising funds for additional Endowed Chair positions in the College. Some department chairs viewed these positions favorably while others thought these funds might be better used for other things.

Research & Development Expenditure Guidelines:

Dean Vorst gave an update on the R&D Guidelines beginning with the lack of funds from ORS. At this time, ORS has not determined what, if any, matching dollars it would supply for faculty travel for this fiscal year. Therefore, she has decided to move forward with a plan that does not include any financial support from them.

Since the UM System has asked that we continue with cost savings this fiscal year, each department will be required to hold in reserve 20% of their R&D budgets.

She suggested that each department formulate a budget plan by forming a faculty committee to decide how their R&D monies will be spent and possibly to use the committee to review requests from faculty for support of research/development.

Dean Vorst advised that each departments has had R&D monies transferred into their department account. The Dean's office will send each department a breakdown of the R&D part of their IR&D budget so that departments will know exactly how to manage their budget.

She stated that the only travel dollars the Dean will match are those requests from Assistant Professors. A match of \$500.00 will be awarded to those Assistant Professors requesting a second trip during the year. (Note: initially these dollars were reserved for those Assistant Professors in their first three years of service; after further discussion, it was decided that the match would pertain to all Assistant Professors.) Departments are able to use RIF and start-up funds to support faculty travel.

Dean Vorst also stated that all faculty would still be required to complete the Travel Requests and submit them to the Dean's office just as they are currently doing. This needs to be done for record keeping purposes.

She reported that some of funds for the IR&D budgets were generated by the College through the Summer courses offered this past summer. The College generated approximately \$300,000 and \$200,000 went directly into the IR&D budgets in the departments.

Dr. Jimmy Adegoke expressed his concern with ORS's lack of leadership. He stated that ORS has had interim leadership far too long and the lack of permanent leadership has crippled the College in obtaining monies through federal initiatives; monies that will not be available again. He asked that Dean Vorst pass that message to the Administration.

III. Committee Reports

Due to time constraints no reports were given.