

Council of Chairs' Meeting
Minutes
April 15, 2009

Attending: Dunbar, Koehler, Peter Eaton (for Sturgeon), Rydberg-Cox, Chen, Martin, Kruger, Tamera Murdock (for Fillion), Mirkin, Novak, Breyspraak, Mardikes, Smith

Absent (excused): Diane Fillion, Gary Ebersole, Joy Swallow, Kathleen Kilway

Dean's Office: Vorst, Stroik, Vaught, Neuman, Wilson

Information:

Commencement: May 8th at 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. UM President will be attending the 4:00 p.m. ceremony – we need a good turnout of faculty.

A&S Reception: Dean Vorst will host the reception which will be held on April 23, 2009 from 3:00 – 5:30 in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center. Jennifer Martin, Theatre department, will provide a 15-20 minute presentation. Discussion and social hour will follow.

A&S Alumni Awardees reception: Will be held on Thursday, April 16th, 4:00 -6:00 p.m. at the Bruce R. Watkins Community Center. Short program begins at 5:00. Light refreshments will be served.

A&S Graduation with Distinction Luncheon: Will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2009 from 11:30 – 1:00 in Pierson Hall. Dean Vorst asked for one member from the department to attend; the department may pay for the ticket. Others are invited; however, they will have to purchase their own ticket (note: the Dean misspoke in the meeting about this; so please take note that this was the original policy). Chairs were advised to contact Karen English for more information. Cyndi Mahoney will send the awardees' list to the Chairs.

Summer Justifications for Advisors: Assoc. Dean Tom Stroik asked that justification be sent to him and Tammy Henderson no later Friday, April 17, 2009.

Discussion:

Budget Update:

Dean Vorst announced that the Chancellor Morton attended the UBC meeting this week and indicated that he felt the FY2010 budget would likely be flat, operating on the FY2009 budget. However; the Senate has not ruled on it and has until May 8, 2009 to do so.

She further advised that the Provost had indicated that the Hiring Freeze may be lifted in a few months—at least that is the hope. The ruling would come from UM President Forsee. Dean Vorst advised the Chairs that there are currently five faculty positions frozen in the College and those positions would be given priority when the freeze is lifted.

Strategic Plan: Chairs' Committees Reports:

Academic Program: Report given by Assoc. Dean Tom Stroik

The committee is still requesting feedback and input from faculty regarding the proposed change in the general education requirements. At the last meeting, Kathy Krause, Chair, and Alberto Villamandos from Foreign Languages, attended the meeting providing much appreciated feedback to the committee. The committee is working on the final draft to present to faculty.

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Faculty & Funding: Report given by Assoc. Dean Wayne Vaught
The committee is currently compiling a list of key elements to develop a process for program review for college programs outside of the typical PEC process.

Marketing: No Report Given

Last 10 Minutes:

Interim Assoc. Dean Dale Neuman gave an update regarding future funding from ORS. Currently it is unknown if ORS will be providing funds for FY2010. Dr. Neuman indicated that if ORS does not provide funds for faculty travel, it would produce an approximate shortfall of \$57,000 for the College. He further understands that ORS has been asked by the Provost to come up with a new policy in time for faculty to plan for FY 2010 travel. We should know more at a later date.

He also indicated that he had received information that the College funding from SGS would most likely be reduced by \$20,000. Therefore, he had sent out reminders to all departments whose GTA accounts are overspent. He had asked them to check into what had happened so we can work together to get our budgets for GTA's in order for next year. He and Assoc. Dean Tom Stroik along with Pat Hilburn are working to set normal expected GTA numbers and stipend rates for the department in the future and he asked that departments do not co-mingle GTA stipends with other funding.

Assoc. Dean Tom Stroik reminded Chairs' to review their schedules for the Fall 2009 semester and be cautious and frugal when scheduling part-time lectures to teach courses. We may not be able to fund adjuncts to teach 'enhanced' courses. It is strongly recommended that part-time lectures be used to teach general education courses in order to hold down the part-time lecture budget.

Dean Vorst announced that the Provost has committed to fund the promotions within the college of FY2010. If faculty currently in the P&T process are approved, it will increase the salary/wage budget in the College by \$102,000.

Dean Vorst read from an article from the Associated Press regarding how Missouri proposes to spend \$943M stimulus dollars. The article indicated that the proposed House budget would spend about \$625M in the 2010 fiscal year substituting state funds that would have gone to K-12 public schools and higher education institutions, along with a capital improvements bill spending approximately \$200M in federal money for repairs/improvements at public colleges and universities.

She also encouraged Chairs' to look at the American Recovery & Reinvestment Plan of 2009 & MU Opportunities listing for possible opportunities for faculty to obtain grant monies. Cyndi Mahoney will email list to Chairs.

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Tom Mardikes, Chair, Department of Theatre asked what is going to be done with the funds that the College saved in anticipation of a 5% cut in the FY 2009. Dean Vorst responded that the Chancellor and the Provost have pledged not to sweep the accounts and we should be able to maintain the dollars for future expenditures.

Linda Breytspreek, Chair, Department of Sociology asked if the Dean would reconsider negotiating the non-regular contracts if the College was able to maintain the funds from FY 2009. Dean Vorst responded that once she receives official word that the university will be operating at the 2009 budget, those contracts could be reconsidered.