

UMKC Faculty Senate Minutes

October 15, 2024

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Zoom

Present: Theresa Torres (Chair), Anthony Shiu (Past Chair), Nora Peterman (Chair-Elect), Shannon Jackson (IFC); Thiagarajan Ganesh (IFC), Lee Likins (NTT At-Large), Owen Belcher, Katherine Bloemker, Antonio Byrd, Amanda Campbell, Ken Ferguson, Eric Gottman, Eric Johnson, Liz Kaz, Bill Keeton, Gustavo Leal, JJ Lee (SSE alternate), Timothy Lynch, Tom Mardikes, Mridul Mukherji, Charles Murnieks, Eric Olsen, Tiffani Riggers-Piehl, Jen Salvo, Michelle Smirnova, Andrew Smith, Michele Smith, Alberto Villamondos, Sharon White-Lewis, Nancy Willis-Smith (Nursing alternate), James Wooten

Ex Officio: Jennifer Burrus

Excused: Shelly Hunter, Tina Niemi

Absent: Michelle Smirnova

Additional Attendees: Cheri Barber, Karen Brown, Amanda Campbell, Alex Holsinger, Kristi Holsinger, Jennifer Lundgren, Michelle Pellegrino, Christine Popoola, Jude Carmona (student), Robert-Abel Porras (student)

I. Opening Business

- A. Meeting called to order by Torres at 3:00 pm.
- B. Approval of October 1, 2024 minutes: Torres explained that these minutes include the reports from small breakout groups addressing retention, persistence, and graduation. Motion to approve the minutes (Shiu/Jackson) passed unanimously.
- C. Motion to approve October 15th meeting agenda (Shiu/Belcher) passed unanimously.

II. Announcements & Updates

- A. UMKC's first Disability Week is October 14-17; Request from Matt Edwards to please support campus events throughout the week.
- B. UMKC Conservatory student: Provost Lundgren announced that the Conservatory is organizing a memorial piano concert in honor of the graduate student who died in a traffic accident at 51st and Troost. The university is working to address ongoing concerns regarding traffic safety in this area with the city and is partnering with Rockhurst University and the local neighborhood association on getting a traffic light installed at this intersection. UMKC's legislative liaisons are also looking into the possibility of installing flashing lights at other pedestrian crosswalks on campus. This can be a long and complicated process because these are public streets.
 1. Mukherji raised concerns about safety on Hospital Hill campus and traffic due to a two-way street. Prov. Lundgren noted that it's possible that the city made this a two-way street due to the location of the emergency room, but the university can work with the city to find ways to encourage people to slow down.

III. Role of Faculty Senators and Shared Governance

- A. Senators asked to send Anthony Shiu and Theresa Torres copies of their unit's summer compensation policies. Thank you to the senators who have already done so.
- B. Unit representation on Senate: Please send Theresa Torres and Nora Peterman the names/emails of your unit's Faculty Senators and the name/email of the chair of your unit's faculty (e.g. chair of the faculty executive committee or faculty council). Let us know if you have any senator positions that are not filled, or if your unit's representative is not attending. It is important to attend Faculty Senate meetings - please arrange for an alternate to serve as your proxy if you are unable to attend a meeting.
- C. Senate committees: Peterman announced that she is compiling an updated master list of committees for which the faculty senate is responsible for securing representatives. (This includes standing committees of the faculty senate, as well as campus committees that include faculty representation who are nominated by the faculty senate.) Currently trying to confirm whether current committee rosters are accurate - please keep an eye out for emails asking for information about current/past terms.
 - 1. Senate voted to confirm Anthony Shiu as Chair of the Faculty Senate Oversight Committee at the previous meeting. There are two current nominations for additional members of the FSOC: Ken Ferguson and Ryan Copus.
 - 2. Still seeking faculty to serve on the Grievance Resolution Panel. White-Lewis asked about criteria for serving on the GRP. Shiu clarified that members of the GRP are required to be tenured faculty, but they do not have to be members of the Faculty Senate.
 - 3. Theresa Torres has been nominated to serve on the Chancellor's planned coordinating council on inclusive excellence. Antonio Byrd asked for clarification regarding the distinction between this advisory council and the Chancellor's Diversity Council. Torres and Prov. Lundgren clarified that the new coordinating council will replace the Diversity Council and will include internal and external members. Specific plans for this council are in-progress, so more details are forthcoming. However, we want to be ready with a representative from faculty senate when this officially commences. Torres nominated Byrd to serve as the Faculty Senate representative to this new council.

IV. Improving Retention, Persistence, and Graduation: UMKC Connect

- A. Kristi Holsinger summarized current initiatives led by student services - these are evidence-based initiatives that are based on recommendations from the NISS survey - and introduced Michelle Pellegrino, who is the UMKC Connect administrator.
- B. Pellegrino presented an overview of UMKC Connect, explaining the rationale and processes for faculty to provide feedback to students through surveys, flags, kudos, and referrals.
 - 1. Keeton asked whether the only feedback options for graduate students are responding to the no-show survey, and if so, why? Holsinger responded that the system is currently built out to serve undergraduates - for

example, flags and referrals are connected to Roo Advising and program directors who are focused on serving undergrads.

2. Shiu noted that the Week 5 grade check came as a surprise. A little more warning and an extended response window for faculty would help them prepare and help this check-in align with the timing of their major assignments. Shiu requested that the slide with key actions in UMKC Connect be shared with faculty. It would help faculty engage with this system and organize our workflow. Torres suggested competitions and prizes to encourage unit-wide participation. Holsinger noted that the system was initially rolled out with incentives, including stipends and prizes for faculty. Other faculty have also requested to extend the grade-check timeline to accommodate different syllabi/course calendars and this will be implemented.
3. Shiu asked about additional resources for students in SHSS who may be struggling. Different disciplines are afforded different types/levels of support, for example English does not receive much SI support. Holsinger shared changes in SI compensation structure to increase student participation as instructors. Contact Jess Pearson to start conversations about what types of support would be most useful.

V. Improving Retention, Persistence, and Graduation: Group Discussions

- A. Torres opened breakout rooms for small group discussions regarding faculty experiences with supporting students (two groups focusing on undergraduate teaching/mentorship and two groups focused on graduate teaching/mentorship):
 1. Discuss positive experiences using UMKC connect as well as alternative ways to promote engagement of students who are not coming to class or turning in work. How can we help students who are in danger of failing or receiving incompletes? Share experiences and ways to improve.
 2. Suggest future discussion topics around retention and persistence.
 3. Requested that each group send a report to Theresa Torres summarizing their discussion.
- B. Group reporting and discussion included:
 1. Breakout Room One (Undergraduate 1): Expressed gratitude for the kudos feature in Connect; most faculty in this group have been using it for negative flags but we agree that this is a great feature to have. Also noted that it sounds like faculty need more instruction/education about what happens after a flag is raised.
 2. Breakout Room Two (Graduate 1): In the law school, a certain amount of FTE is dedicated to academic support as well as a couple of courses in which students have the option of taking a remediation class; The PA program supports early intervention with faculty assessment of student performance and the development of a remediation plan based on that assessment.
 3. Breakout Room Three (Undergraduate 2): Several of us had used Connect especially in larger first-semester courses prone to have higher DFW rates. It seems like that helps, although there was also curiosity about what happens after a flag is raised. There was also support for a

wider window/to widen the timeline for surveys to make the grade-check component a little more flexible

4. Breakout Room Four (Graduate 2) Recognition that many professional students are working full time and juggling additional stressors on top of school. These present unique challenges for support. Group suggested allocating additional resources for difficult courses (such as dedicated tutors, etc.) to maximize resources within graduate student support.
5. Group Five (Librarians): Our libraries (and librarians) provide valuable services to students. One important way to improve retention and graduation is having a library that has sufficient funding so that students get their resources from our library, since our library holdings are lower than our R2 peer institutions. Recent research shows that students will transfer out of universities without good library resources.

VI. Committee Elections

- A. Theresa Torres decline her nomination to Chancellor's Advisory Council on Inclusive Excellence, so that Antonio Byrd was the only nominee.
- B. Motion to approve slate nominating Ken Ferguson and Ryan Copus to the Faculty Senate Oversight Committee and Antonio Byrd to the Chancellor's Advisory Council (Shiu/Riggers-Piehl) passed unanimously.

VII. Committee Reports

- A. Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Safety: Sharon White Lewis noted that she has not received any information on when EMAC meetings are being held this semester. Shannon Jackson provided additional information regarding traffic and safety concerns. This is not the first student fatality due to traffic - another international student at the Conservatory was killed by a car at 53rd and Troost in 2003. We've had 71 traffic fatalities this year - last year the total was 67 for the entire year, so this issue is not getting better.
- B. Intercampus Faculty Committee: Shannon Jackson reported on the 10/14/2024 IFC meeting. She has shared PowerPoint slides from the presentation on intellectual pluralism and First Amendment speech on Canvas. Ben Canlas is the Chief Information Officer at system-level. His appointment was made permanent from an interim position. The system of acquiring and using grant money has been better designed for ease of use. AI was also discussed without any major developments. T. Torres commented that a recent update of the CRRs statement on AI. will be sent by email. Faculty may wish to include this statement in their syllabi. Shannon's report from IFC includes a hyperlink that addresses several different approaches to AI. See IFC attached minutes.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn meeting (Belcher/Jackson) passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.

CRR 200.010.C.1.c now defines unauthorized use of artificially-generated content in the student code of conduct.

The term **unauthorized use of artificially generated content**, includes, but is not limited to (i) use of artificial intelligence tools or other tools that generate artificial content in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or other assessments without permission from the instructor; (ii) submitting work for evaluation as one's own that was produced in material or substantial part through use of artificial intelligence tools or other tools that generate artificial content without permission from the instructor; (iii) using artificial intelligence tools or other tools that generate artificial content in a manner contrary to instructions from the instructor; or (iv) using artificial intelligence tools or other tools that generate artificial content in a manner that violates any other provision of these rules concerning academic dishonesty. Use of commonly available tools such as spelling or grammar checking software or features of software that propose anticipated words or phrases while text is being written will not be considered unauthorized use of artificially generated content unless such use is contrary to instructions from the instructor.