

December 4, 2024
8:30-10 am
In-person: BHH 006
Zoom:

<https://umsystem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYscuCrpjMpGtSek8hRr6RNQxZfTWe6GV70>

8:30 am **Call to Order**

Amanda Campbell, Chair

-Amanda calls the meeting to order at 8:32

-Amy Schaefer presents on the 51st St. Pedestrian Zone. Step 1 was closing down the area/street. Step 2 we are beginning now, kicking off a community input/outreach portion of the project.

-51st St. Project Process: evaluate and develop initial study, campus community input, develop concepts for leadership review and approval, finalize design approach (anticipated installation is spring break 2025). The project is envisioned as a phase process, “may not see everything we want on day one, but can augment as we go”

-Word Cloud: attendants invited to participate and indicate their favorite space on UMKC or other campus. “Quad” and “student union rooftop” get quite a few votes. Most important consideration for the new space: “accessibility” gets a quite a few votes. Also, a case study of a similar project at Purdue is shown. Yard games, outdoor fireplaces, lighting (not that we will necessarily have all of these things, just ideas)
-a survey regarding 51st St will be distributed by email this week

8:35 am **Chancellor’s Talk**

Chancellor Agrawal

-past couple of years have seen incredible changes at UMKC:

1) highest graduation rates for undergrads in a decade, highest retention rates in a decade

2) largest incoming class in history was 2023 (this year we saw about a 4% increase).

58% of our incoming students were first generation, 51% were Pell eligible. 25% Hispanic, 16% African American. We know if we give first gen students a bit of extra assistance, their GPAs are higher than the UMKC average.

3) International graduate enrollment is down, we will be strategic about trying to get their numbers up again. Good news is applications are up across the board for this time (for 2025)

4) We should know by March 2025 whether we are Carnegie R1, research expenditures have more than doubled in the last 5 years. Haven’t hired a bunch more researchers, just optimizing the existing researchers and getting them the staff assistance they need.

5) The areas where we think we have good traction: data analytics/AI, electromagnetics (microwaves, interactions of electromagnets with biological systems), MIDE is about 100 people strong, tied to DoD, materials research, humanities. Applicable to medicine and

defense. Dr. Clancy Martin has received notoriety for his book, an app he helped develop also received national attention

- work at St. Jo's is going well, should be ready to move in fall 2025
- 51st will remain a street (not dug out), asphalt will remain for emergency vehicle use, this took about 4 years to complete
- construction in the library for student success pieces is on track for opening fall 2025,
- health sciences campus, groundbreaking has occurred, however they discovered soil on site was contaminated, still on schedule
- next project Chancellor will be working on is the conservatory. Perhaps a new building.
- Streetcar is on schedule, should be completed in spring 2025. Rails are in place, landscaping remains, then the streetcars will run without passengers. Chancellor expects they will really open to the public in second half of 2025
- Soccer team went to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament! Twice defeated the no. 3 team in the nation, won the conference
- budgets will be tighter going forward (unsure about state money, enrollment will be critical). 5 years ago we were down to 3 or 4 months of operating budget in reserves, we've about doubled that by now

Questions:

- 1) Deliveries to Plaster will have to be scheduled
- 2) DEI transition—DEI office was closed. Missouri legislature made this call. Pros/Cons of a centralized office, symbolically important, though with a decentralized approach, we can make inclusivity everyone's job. Andre will head a "coordinating council" that tracks measures of how different populations are faring at UMKC. Chancellor mentions that UMKC serves a very diverse population and so we must continue to serve that population.
- 3) SGA will be represented on the "coordinating council"
- 4) Health Sciences campus to be ready fall 2026
- 5) Foodiverse is delayed by about 1 month, should be ready to go by February 2025 (cafeteria will no longer exist in Atterbury, only in Student Union)
- 6) Rockhill Road diet? No plans at this time, but they are working on Troost. After student was killed, Chancellor and Rockhurst president met with City of KC to determine steps forward.
- 7) Student retention strategy? Holsinger is working on this. FirstGen Roos, MoCA, Career Services, all seem to be working very well. Question is if/how we scale up these programs (some may not be scalable). Partnering with Georgia State to understand how to better intervene for improved retention

- 8) Staff retention: Chancellor monitors numbers, turnover has not increased over the last few years. He mentions that he would like to hear ideas from us about what should be done.
 - 9) What if DoE goes away? Pell money? Chancellor doesn't think the federal money will go away, but also says there are many "what ifs" and we can't focus too much on those. If things change dramatically, we will have to seek out more private funding
 - 10) Wall Street Journal ranked us 1 or 2 for student experience, also high for student salaries after graduation. We are emerging as a regional presence, hope to make it to national presence, too.
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9:30 am **November Meeting Minutes** Jye Shafer, Secretary
-November 2024 minutes approved

Treasurer's Report Sarah Bigge, Treasurer

-overall budget is hovering at around \$16k. Larger purchases will come in spring 2025, mostly on track as usual

Sarah Amos: we are celebrating 3 folks who stayed on, Marilyn, Anna, and Andre

9:35 am **Campus Committee Updates** Committee Representatives

Diversity council: not meeting
Faculty Senate: nothing relevant to staff at last meeting
ISAC: no updated, we compiled the Board of Curators list of recommendations for staff
Parking: no updates
Partners in Prevention: regional conference happened, helping counseling with their end of semester efforts, looking forward to next semester.

9:45 am **Committee Updates** Committee Chairs

Communications: getting things together for the December newsletter, Kasey Kudos moved over to Comms committee, working on a rebrand and the app (<https://www.umkc.edu/staff-council/conferences-and-events/kasey-kudos.html>). This is taking a bit longer but they are excited about what's to come (this is a recognition



website which is open for staff to use, nice thing to do for colleagues who are doing an excellent job, or welcoming a new staff member)

Engagement: attention is turning to the end of academic year conference, staff luncheon, leaning toward doing this event at Hospital Hill next year, planning on Tuesday, May 20. December meeting for 12/20 was cancelled. Diastole art show seemed to go well, a couple folks attended and said they had a good time. Upcoming events: virtual ugly sweater contest (Ugly sweater contest info: It's time to spread some holiday cheer and showcase your most festive (and hilariously ugly) sweaters! Whether it's a classic knitted disaster, over-the-top holiday bling, or a DIY masterpiece, we want to see your creativity.

How to Enter:

Snap a photo of yourself rocking your ugliest sweater and email it to **staffcouncil@umkc.edu** by **Friday, December 20th**.

Why Enter?

Not only is this a great way to share some laughs and connect with colleagues, but you'll also have a chance to win exciting holiday prizes!

Let's make this a season to remember—ugly sweaters and all!)

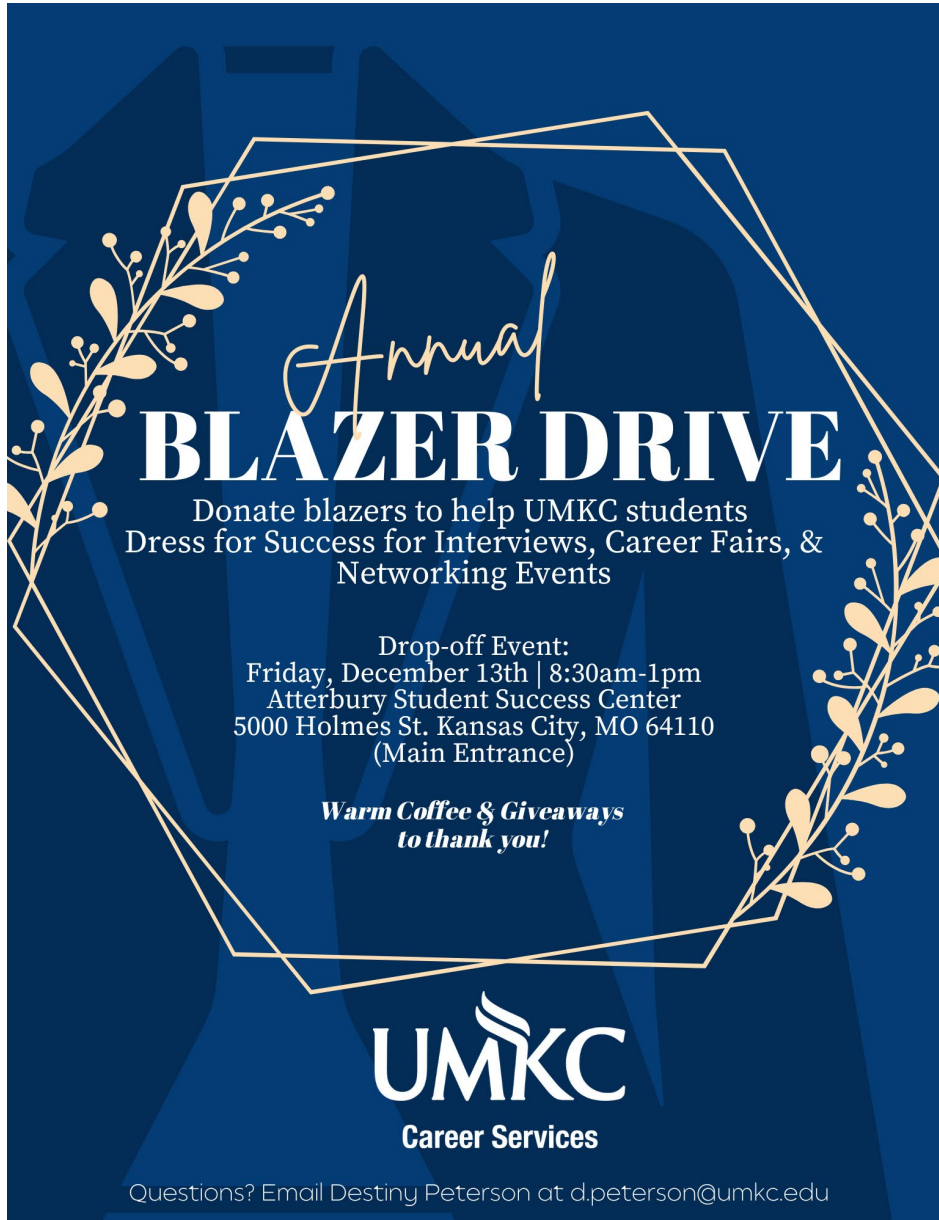
Membership: first new staff coffee chats were the week before Thanksgiving. Good turnout at HH and Volker. We will host a virtual coffee chat on January 15, 2025 (*You're Invited: Virtual Staff Coffee and Chat: January 15*

Staff Council would love to invite all UMKC Staff to join us for our Virtual Staff Coffee and Chat event on January 15 from 9:00 am – 10:30 am via Zoom. Grab your favorite coffee or tea beverage and join us from a comfortable location for this exciting networking opportunity. During this event, you can build connections with other new UMKC staff and learn more about Staff Council's mission and initiatives. We hope to see you there!

Register for this event using our [Zoom Registration Link!](#)) Amanda will table at the Chancellor's breakfast next week. Alex from school of dentistry mentions that if we want to engage staff there, the noon hour is really the only option.

Outreach: a few events coming up, volunteer opportunity at Harvesters this Saturday 9-11am (Ignore Nov. 22 deadline but here is info for Harvesters: Join Staff Council Outreach Committee on Dec. 7, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Harvesters. Families and children ages 8 and up are welcome to join. The UMKC team will be assigned a task, like sorting food, packing backpack snacks, or working in the coolers. Space is limited, [register by Nov. 22.](#))

-blazer drive is happening next Friday (we are experiencing a shortage on blazers). Any size is welcome:

A blue poster for an Annual Blazer Drive. The background features a faint silhouette of a person in a blazer. The text is centered and framed by a gold geometric border with leafy branches on the sides. The main title is 'Annual BLAZER DRIVE' in white, with 'Annual' in a script font and 'BLAZER DRIVE' in a bold sans-serif font. Below the title, it says 'Donate blazers to help UMKC students Dress for Success for Interviews, Career Fairs, & Networking Events'. The event details are: 'Drop-off Event: Friday, December 13th | 8:30am-1pm Atterbury Student Success Center 5000 Holmes St. Kansas City, MO 64110 (Main Entrance)'. A note says 'Warm Coffee & Giveaways to thank you!'. At the bottom is the UMKC Career Services logo and contact information: 'Questions? Email Destiny Peterson at d.peterson@umkc.edu'.

ProDevo: smaller events in spring, health and wellbeing earlier in 2025, later they'll do a fair-style event to learn about staff resources offered by offices on campus. The ProDevo conference will be Tuesday, May 20th. Theme is "Navigating Tomorrow" not sure yet whether Volker or Hospital Hill. They are accepting proposals for conference presentations. Link to the proposal submission will be in the newsletter (Pro Devo Presentation Link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpb-Yy73GV_gne-



[I9pENGNXktyTHmFJfFbL33VKkM7OaEuTA/viewform](#)). Need to have those submissions by January 31, 2025. Topics could be just about anything—goal is to have a wide representation of staff

*If you're a new voting member, you must be on a committee. Each committee will do their own pitch at this time. Each committee has a slide which details their role and some of their details/takeaways. More info on committees here:

<https://www.umkc.edu/staff-council/about-us/committees.html>

9:50 am **Announcements**

-January 25: new voting member orientation

-February 25: pink, valentine's day

March: "in bloom"

April: Royals gear

May: Summertime

June: Pride

UMKCRA (Retirees Association): they would like nominations for staff members, recognizing staff who've retired (Marilyn has more information in person, hard copy)

Emily Strayhall:

EAP monthly topics: <https://www.umkc.edu/hr/pay-and-benefits/benefits/eap.html>

Stress LESS this Holiday Season: <https://www.umkc.edu/hr/current-employees/roo-employee-engagement.html>

Staff Awards: <https://www.umkc.edu/hr/current-employees/staff-awards.html>

SPEER Fund: <https://www.umkc.edu/hr/current-employees/speer.html>

10:00 am **Adjourn**

Adjourned at 9:52am

