

Washington University in St. Louis
Faculty Senate
May 4, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 4:30.

1. The minutes of the December 2, 2008 meeting were approved.
2. University Response to the H1N1 Influenza Outbreak - Dr. Alan Glass
Please see attached power point

Discussion:

The popular name, “swine flu” comes from the hypothesis that the virus was brewed in a pig, and was most likely transferred to a human host from swine.

Antiflu medications are available locally. The university already has 150 courses of the medicine, and would get its share of the US stockpile released to states if necessary.

The trigger for canceling university activities, or closing the university is evolving, and would most likely include multiple confirmed cases on campus.

Both the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control agree that there is no reason for healthy people to avoid domestic or international travel. Do not fly with flu symptoms, see a doctor if you have flu-like symptoms, especially after international travel.

People with active flu should wear masks to protect others. First responders and healthcare workers should have respiratory-filter masks.

The best defense is washing one’s hands under running water with soap for as long as it takes to sing happy birthday twice. Gel and foam are just as effective. Stay away from people who are ill. See a doctor if you think you have the flu.

3. Chancellor’s Report

Financial outlook

While recently there have been some positive signs, the university is preparing for constrained budget environment for the near future. The chancellor’s April 23rd talk is available on the university website. Suggestions to improve efficiency and reduce expenses are still welcome.

The Board of Trustees’ conservative approach to spending – using a trailing five year average (rather than the more common three year average) – has served us well. Being prudent, we are planning for a sustained period of decline. Vice chancellors and deans are working to find savings and cut spending. We are on track to balance the budgets of each of the seven schools for FY 2010; FY 2011 is more of a challenge.

On the revenue side, faculty is responding aggressively to stimulus package funded opportunities. Fundraising is up a few percentage points compared to last year with two months to go.

The incoming undergraduate class looks likely to meet the target although there are some concerns regarding summer melt.

Faculty Awards

Enola Proctor from the GWB School of Social Work is this year's Arthur Holly Compton Award winner and the Carl and Gerti Cori Award goes to Jeff Gordon of the School of Medicine. These awards will be celebrated at the chancellor's gala the first Saturday evening in December.

Transition

Vice Chancellor for Research Sam Stanley has been appointed President of the State University of New York at Stonybrook.

New policy

As of July 1, 2010 the university will implement a tobacco-free policy for all university-owned property. The policy has already been implemented on the medical school campus.

Construction

Brauer Hall is on schedule and under budget, and will be ready to house the Departments of Biomedical Engineering and Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering by next summer. The official opening is already scheduled for October 1, 2010.

Busch Hall renovations are nearing completion. The building is expected to be LEED certified.

On the South Forty new dormitories will be ready for occupancy Fall 2009. This summer the Wohl Dining facility will be demolished with its replacement and new residence halls to be completed Fall 2010.

Construction of the BJC Institute of Health should be finished by December 2009.

Rankings

The latest US News and World Report rankings attest to the quality of our graduate and professional programs. We continue to build on success in our quest to make the programs competitive with the undergraduate programs regarding quality, visibility and impact.

4. Chair's Report - Andy Sobel

The Professor of Practice proposal passed with a record voter turn-out (over 60 % on the Danforth Campus).

The Senate Council was briefed on the following:

E-discovery

The Tobacco-free policy

New campus childcare facility (concurrent continuation of existing arrangements)

Brookings Institute Partnership

Institute of Public Health & the new master's degree program with its unique
transdisciplinary, translational

Diversity committee report & initiatives

A new gender pay equity committee was appointed and will be presenting an interim report in the fall.

The resolution that faculty standing committees and faculty participation on standing committees be limited to recurring and ongoing matters that require faculty input, and that all others be ad hoc, was unanimously passed. It is hoped that this resolution will encourage more faculty participation in university governance by eliminating less meaningful participation.

5. Necrology – Nancy E. Berg

Merle Kling
James M. Vanderplas
Charles M. Wolfe
Eugene Robyn Kilgen
Raymond D. Miller
Neville Grant
Richard M. Torack
Alexis F. Hartmann Jr.
Loretta Cass Seleski
Richard D. Todd
Abdullah M. Nassief
John W. Jermyn

6. Election of new secretary

Bill Clark, Professor of Otolaryngology of the School of Medicine, was elected unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy E. Berg
Secretary, Faculty Senate