The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 3:20 p.m. in Union 237A with President Davie Davis presiding.

ROLL CALL:

In addition to FS President Davis, the following 18 Senators were present: Bonham, Bouzouita, Bradley, Callahan, Ewing, Love, Norwood, Peltz, Sarkar, Smith, Swanson, Tropf, Yates, Clements for Neal, Leslie for Bordere, Marsh for Wenger, Weed for Stevenson and McCord. Also present were Provost George Wilson and guest, Matt Melvin.

MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of meeting 5 of the 2008-2009 Faculty Senate held on October 8, 2008. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Provost Wilson had the following announcement:

- Everyone should have gotten the notice that he has initiated an internal search for two positions, (1) Associate Provost for Academic Programs and (2) Dean of the Honors College. Both of these positions are currently filled by interim appointments.

Senator Yates questioned the Kansas City Star as they reported that there are hiring freezes being put into place now. Provost Wilson stated that it is being considered a “soft” freeze. Some positions deemed mission critical will be filled.

Senator Callahan asked if UCM will see any additional funds regarding the Proposition A that was recently passed. Senator Swanson stated that the proposition and the casino funds usually goes to K through 12 grades.

FS President Davis announced that the FSSFB committee motion to raise benchmarks was not approved by President Podolefsky. There is not enough data and it has been sent back to the FSSFB committee. Davis stated that she invited Steve Popejoy to come and talk to the FS regarding this issue.

FS President Davis stated that it does look as though we are looking into dire economic times. We may have a change in administrators and the ones we have now, are really easy to work with. Considering that combination of factors, the Faculty need to think of some ways to strengthen our voices.
Senator Bradley stated that the FS doesn’t have a very good reputation around campus. Provost Wilson stated that the FS is the voice of the Faculty. Faculty need to understand, when the University President looks for faculty decision, he looks to the FS.

There were no updates or announcements for the SPRC.

NEW BUSINESS:

Matt Melvin from enrollment management was present and presented some documents and a power point slide show regarding retention at UCM.

Senator Ewing asked, “As far as retention, what are the main reasons it is falling?” Melvin stated that it was academic performance. 101 students were disqualified after spring.

Senator Callahan asked, “What are the factors of why students come to Central and MU closed enrollment so what are they doing that we are not?” Melvin stated that we don’t compete well with MU. One factor is clearly academic programs.

Senator Smith asked the reason why students were not choosing UCM. Melvin stated that we survey current students on why they selected us but we can’t really survey students who do not select us.

There was much discussion among the FS regarding the information brought to them by Matt Melvin. (Please see all handouts and power point presentation print out attached to the approved minutes in the FS office.)

With nothing further, the FS meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Gower
Faculty Senate Office Professional