

**Faculty Assembly Minutes**

April 9, 2024

Frederick Douglas Library Auditorium

1. **Welcome and Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 11:11 by Dr. Joyce Bell. Dr. Grace Nawamba made a motion to bring the meeting to order.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Joseph Bree made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Nawamba approved and Dr. Tiara Cornelius seconded. No opposition.

1. **Update from Dr. Anderson**

We are celebrating three points of pride:

1. The UMES Gospel Choir performing under the direction of Steven Pender @ the Knicks basketball game.
2. The Honda Classic Team representing UMES well in California with Provost Allen.
3. The students lauded at the Honor’s Convocation and Dr. Michael Lane and his team for putting together such a high-level event of celebration of our students.

Legislative Session

The President’s group met with the Chancellor and things are looking good for a one to one match. Dean Kairo and President will report more on the budget in the May meeting.

Veterinary Science Program

The program achieved two milestones (approval by the board and by MHEC) and on July 7, 2024 they will meet another in meeting with the accrediting team of the Veterinarian Council.

1. **Update from Student Affairs & Experience (V.P. Jenkins)**

Announcements: V.P. Jenkins notes that 9 out of ten returning students have registered. Over 150 new students are enrolled this spring semester (primarily international students). We had over 2,800 students this spring. April 15 & 16 are registration days. Tawes Gym is open.

They met with SGA and are looking forward to supporting the new election season. Springfest is April 22-26 (Springfest Project 1886). During this week there will be many activities like an academic demonstration from SANS; a flyer and schedule of events is forthcoming.

Survey Initiatives: Two surveys are being deployed to the students:

1. Belonging survey: Are we meeting your needs and what do your needs look like?
   1. Dr. Miriam Purnell asked if this information could then be aggregated by school and department.
2. Demand survey: This survey will look at housing as campus looks to build and renovate dorms as we are full this fall and need to look to our community partners to extend the housing options.
3. **Update from Dr. Allen**

Kudos to the faculty for getting grades in on time. A definitive date on the accreditation document for review is forthcoming and Dr. Allen is working with Dr. Dunn on that. He spoke with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Faculty Handbook Committee and they hope to have something for faculty to review in May and move forward with a vote.

1. **Pool Update**

V.P. Owens was away so President Anderson announced that the pool renovation has been six years in process and the Department of Health is inspecting the pool for approval to open. There is a new HVAC, lighting upgrade, new paint, new drain covers and four lifeguards added. The new hire, Director of Recreation Renee Clark, is overseeing the process and hopes to announce the successful reopening soon.

**VII. Decision Science and Visualization (Dr. Urban Wiggins)**

Dr. Wiggins reviewed accessing the dashboard data ([www.umes.edu/dsv/](http://www.umes.edu/dsv/)) noting the challenge to manage the data. Dr. Anderson allowed for time to get software and equipment (Power BI) to process tickets and types of tickets for information needed. They had a soft opening, but hope to do a full roll out in fall.

Dr. Wiggins proceeded to show how data can be filtered by enrollment, type of student, school student is enrolled in, ethnicity and gender. Viewers can even go back in history to look at data from programs that are no longer offered. He advised to clear your query before moving to a new search, but that they have data in categories like enrollment, completers, course and grade distribution, and the strategic plan. They will be adding more dashboards as they receive suggestions. He emphasized that he wants this to be a team effort and to better help faculty have the data they need.

1. **Update from V.P. Rodriguez**

This summer we will be converting from Google Drive to Office 365. Faculty will be able to retain their email. We are doing this because we are currently paying for both and Gmail is not FERPA compliant. All documents will convert and IT will work with faculty. They hope to smooth out the bumps in the summer. Hyperlinks will need to be updated. The created date on documents will be the date of migration. Faculty can visit [www.umes.edu/O365](http://www.umes.edu/O365) for more information.

1. **General Education (Dr. Terry Kundell)**

Students coming in this fall semester are under the fall 2023 general education program. In 2015, COMAR changed the general education requirements so this update has been ongoing. The committee approved the new structure in April 2019 and institution specific courses in April 2023. We have the fewest number of credits for general education allowed (38 credits). Dr. Kundell is collecting program plans and will be reviewing them with Drs. Allen & Gopaland. The committee is accepting proposals for institution specific courses and will vote on these monthly. A question was asked by Dr. Azemi about their 3 cr. First Year Experience course; Dr. Kundell said she would look into that. More information about that can be found at [www.umes.edu/GEP](http://www.umes.edu/GEP)

1. **Academic Committee: Proposals for approval** **(Dr. Nawamba)**

* Nutrition Science Minor (Previously Nutrition Option 1: Nutrition Science) – Program Revision
* Nutrition and Wellness Minor (Previously Nutrition Option 2: Food and Nutrition) – Program Revision

Motion to Approve by Mr. Joseph Bree and seconded by Dr. Leesa Thomas-Banks. No objections. Motion carries.

1. **Faculty Concerns (Dr. Amy Hagenrater-Gooding)**

The new Chair is Ms. Corrie Cotton and she will take over in May to follow the FA Constitution and keep continuity of leadership. A new survey is forthcoming to close the loop in the information gathering the committee has been doing; they thank faculty for all their transparent sharing of their concerns. The FCC asks Chairs to share the narrative of the Faculty Evaluation Document with faculty prior to the final May meeting to allow for greater time to process and adequately respond, making the meeting a productive one. Sabbatical deadline for spring 2025 is May 1, 2024. Please submit your applications following the current guidelines in the Faculty Handbook.

1. **Communications Committee (Dr. Joyce Bell for Dr. Prince Attoh)**

The list of new UMES faculty representatives was given. These senators will serve two years. They are:

* Dr. Mark Williams
* Dr. Robin Gould
* Ms. Corrie Cotton
* Dr. Kingsley Ejiogu
* Dr. Kathryn Barrett-Gaines
* Mr. Joseph Bree
* Dr. Charlene Harris
* Dr. Etahe Johnson
* Dr. Jesse Halpern
* Dr. Virginie Zoumenou
* Dr. Joseph Petrula
* Dr.  Carla Sewer
* Dr. Donna Satterlee
* Dr. Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones
* Dr. Edgar Larrea
* Dr. Hwei Wang

Dr. Amy Hagenrater-Gooding will be the new Faculty Assembly Chair in May. Other election ballots will be going out this week for other positions resuming in May.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.