

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT – 11/18/05

## Art L. Spisak, Faculty Senate Chair

### **I. REPORT OF FACULTY SENATE ACTIVITY FOR NOVEMBER:**

#### **1. RESOLUTION ON SUSPENSION OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AND UNIVERSITY FELLOW**

A resolution was passed that endorsed the continuation of the Distinguished Professor and University Fellow component of the Roles and Rewards plan for the current academic year and urged that the application deadlines be extended to accommodate the endorsement (Senate Resolution 6-05/06). The rationale for the resolution was:

- 1) The Senate originally endorsed the Roles and Rewards document that included these two components (in 1996), and the Senate recently voted to support their continuation for the current academic year.
- 2) The suspension of the Distinguished Professor and University Fellow components was recently announced without consultation with the Faculty Senate, even though the application deadline for these honors had already been published.

#### **2. REPORT FROM ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

Dr. Roger Sell, director of the Academic Development Center, gave a brief report on the Academic Development Center. According to Dr. Sell, one-third of faculty participated in one or more of the ADC events during 2004-05.

#### **3. NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN OZARK STUDIES**

There was a motion to approve a 15-hour Graduate Certificate in Ozark Studies (**Senate Action 3-05/06**). This is an interdisciplinary program in the diverse social, environmental, and cultural features of the Ozarks region. It has been created because of student demand.

#### **4. REPORT FROM PROVOST SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Dr. Madeleine Kernen, co-chair of the Provost Search Committee, gave a report on the Committee's progress. The deadline for receipt of applications is December 9. To date, 17 applications have been received. The Committee hopes to narrow the applications down to 4-6 names by January 20. Interviews will be conducted in February with an offer to be made in March.

#### **5. REPORT FROM COMPENSATION COMMITTEE**

Associate Provost Skip Phelps, chair of the Compensation Committee, reported that the subcommittee working to develop the new faculty compensation plan is trying to keep the new plan as simple as possible. The Committee has been asked to report by December 15. A second public forum for faculty was held on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **6. REPORT FROM TASK FORCE ON MISSOURI STATE FUTURES**

Acting Provost Frank Einhellig, chair of the Task Force on Missouri State Futures, gave an update on the status of the Committee. The Committee continues to refine the clusters, and one of the biggest issues for the committee to decide is how broad or how narrow an embracement to have. Meetings in which faculty can provide feedback have been set for November 28 at 3:30 p.m. in Karls 101 and November 29 at 3:30 p.m. in Karls 102.

#### **7. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLUS/MINUS GRADING**

Senate passed a resolution calling for the implementation of the plus/minus grading system (**Senate Resolution 7-05/06**). A motion on this same topic was originally passed by the Faculty Senate on May 8, 2003. Scott Pierson, vice president of SGA, spoke against the resolution, saying students feel the system hurts their ability to keep their scholarships and that they are not rewarded for excelling (can't get an A+). He felt the plus/minus system would actually take away some students who had planned to come to MSU. One senator remarked that he had just come from a university that had a plus/minus grading system, and he was of the opinion that the grades tend to balance out about evenly with either system. His department was unanimous in supporting the plus/minus system. Another senator added that her department also was in favor of the resolution.

## **II. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Chair Spisak announced the formation of the Committee on Student Fees. Dr. Dianne Strickland from Art & Design will chair the committee. Other members include: Don Aripoli, Student Affairs; Mike Barnett, SGA; Chuck Harvey, GSC; John Hoftyzer, ECO; John Satzinger, CIS; Lois Shufeldt, MKT; Art Spisak, Faculty Senate Chair; and Tom Wyrick, ECO.
2. Senator Kane announced that the Administrative Assessment for the departmental level will be distributed to faculty next week. A parallel survey for college level administrators will be distributed at a later date.

### **III. Profile of Dr. David J. Dixon, Professor of Psychology**