

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT – 6/17/05

## Art L. Spisak, Faculty Senate Chair

1. Actions from May '05 Faculty Senate meeting
  - Resolutions honoring past Faculty Senate officers:
    - Lois Shufeldt, past-Chair
    - Rhonda Ridinger, Secretary to the Faculty
  - Election of Missouri Association of Faculty Senates designated voter and alternate: Spisak and Richter
    - MAFS comprised of Faculty Senate officers from state institutions of higher learning
    - Push to get the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) resolution for a formula for state funding of higher education adopted by the group
2. No Faculty Senate meetings this summer: next meeting September 8<sup>th</sup>
  - President-Elect Nietzel has agreed to speak
3. Significant Faculty Senate business since the last BOG meeting
  - Two meetings of the past and present Faculty Senate Executive Committee members with President-Elect Nietzel
    - Core group of the Faculty Senate Executive Cmte composed of three elected officers, Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary to the Faculty; also the past Chair and Parliamentarian included at times
    - Faculty priorities discussed – e.g., salaries and benefits; more voice in governance
    - highly encouraging responses from Dr. Nietzel
    - Good communication already established: monthly meetings of Faculty Senate Executive Cmte with Dr. Nietzel; bi-weekly meetings of the Chair and President
  - Meeting with Chair of the Staff Senate, Diana Garland, and the President of the Student Government, Mike Barnett
    - Find common issues/concerns, such as equitable state funding for SMS, and then work together for results
    - Meetings will be regularized and will include two officers from each organization
    - I think you will hear the results of this alliance in future BOG meetings: we hope to simplify your job and the jobs of administration by presenting you with possible solutions, and ones that have the sanction of the larger coalition, rather than just the problems of each constituency

- Weekly contact with the Deans at Academic Council
    - unique group – good dynamic, with an especially good vantage point and perspective: high enough to see the bigger picture but not so high as to be removed from the trenches (i.e., faculty's conditions)
    - good communication with this group vital to faculty
  - Meeting with the Office of Academic Affairs
    - Regular monthly meetings of the Faculty Senate Executive Cmte and personnel of that office will continue
    - Also there will be regular meetings of the Chair of Faculty Senate and the Vice President of Academic Affairs
4. Effects of Good Communication between Faculty and Administration
- My election platform was to improve relations between faculty and administration
  - Dr. Jim Baker spoke at the May meeting of Faculty Senate
    - Fielded sharp questions on the issue of one set of comparison standards for faculty and administration compensation
  - At the next UPAC meeting Dr. Baker assigned the Process Improvement Committee the task of determining one comparison standard for the university
    - Charge has been extended to include determination of peer institutions to which SMS will compare itself; also to determine an index for inflation
    - Faculty is being granted two additional representatives on the committee to help with these important issues
  - The result is that faculty has the voice in governance it seeks, and administrators have the benefit of the knowledge and experience of what I think you will find to be a group comprised of some very capable people
  - My thanks first to Jim Baker for extending himself to appear at faculty Senate and take questions and then for following up on this particular issue; he got this going. Also thanks to Greg Burris, Chair of the Process Improvement Cmte, for the addition of the faculty reps

Respectfully submitted,

Art L. Spisak  
Faculty Senate Chair