

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University Assembly
September 24, 2024 – 3:00 p.m.
MSC Century Room A & Zoom option.**

Senate Chair Sanjiv Bhatia called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Dr. Bhatia welcomed the attendees in the MSC Century Room and those who were attending by Zoom. He asked for approval of the minutes from the Assembly meeting on April 30, 2024. The minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson (Dr. Sanjiv Bhatia):

- Dr. Bhatia reported a change in the Steering Committee's membership: Amber Candela has resigned, and Emily Brown from the College of Education will be taking her place.
- Dr. Bhatia reported that all the Senate committees have elected their chairs and the committees are up and running as we begin a new academic year. He displayed a list of all the newly elected committee chairs.

Report of the Chancellor (Dr. Kristin Sobolik):

- Chancellor Sobolik reported that UMSL has risen to number 135 amongst all public universities in the nation.
- The following enrollment report was given:
 - Undergraduate First-time college (+35%)
 - Undergraduate Transfer (+6.0%)
 - Undergraduate Continuing (-1.2%)
 - Graduate Continuing (+16%)
 - New Graduate (-17.0%)
- Chancellor Sobolik welcomed 21 new faculty members, including 9 from Arts and Sciences, 4 from Business, 4 from Nursing, 2 from Optometry, 1 from Social Work, and 1 from Libraries.
- Chancellor Sobolik also announced the recipients of the Curators' Distinguished Professorships: Cody Ding, David Kimball, and Xuemin Wang.
- Additionally, Chancellor Sobolik introduced Norma Hall-Thoms as the new Dean of the College of Nursing and Nancy Singer as the Interim Dean of the College of Education.
- The Chancellor announced Holly Sheilley as the new Executive Director of Athletics and Marisa Smith as the new Chief of Police.
- Chancellor Sobolik announced that the new SSB elevator has been completed, and the deconstruction of the tower is currently underway from the inside out, with a target completion date set for mid-fall.

Report of the Staff Association (Ms. Britne Bacca-Haupt):

Ms. Bacca-Haupt reported on the following topics:

- An All-Staff meeting was held by Zoom on September 19. Three more All-Staff meetings are scheduled throughout the year.
- All are welcome to participate as the staff hosts a "Socktober event" for October. Socks donations are requested. The socks will be donated to local groups in the community.

Report of the Student Government Association (Mr. Alexander Orywall):

Mr. Orywall reported that the Student Government Association (SGA) is receiving the following suggestions from students:

- Students would like to see expanded Library hours.
- Students would like to see expanded dining options in the Nosh.
- Students would like to see the creation of Sports Clubs
- Students would like to see Wi-Fi on the bridge.

Mr. Orywall announced that the SGA is set to reinstate the Campus Safe Walk event on October 21, 2024, with the meeting point in the Century Room. This initiative was originally established fourteen years ago by students from Residential Life and Housing in collaboration with the SGA.

Athletics Report (Dr. Joe Pickard):

The Assembly received an Athletics update from Faculty Athletics Representative Dr. Joe Pickard. If you have any questions or concerns about student athletes, please contact Dr. Pickard or the Assistant Athletics Director for Academics, Alex Miner. Everyone is encouraged to attend upcoming games and matches. Some of the Athletics statistics reported were:

- Department GPA 3.49
- All 19 sports achieved a 3.0 or higher.
- 187 earned Academic All-GLVC Honors
- 1 GLVC Player of the Year and 1 GLVC Freshman of the Year

UMSLRA (Dr. Tom Eyssell)

The Assembly received an update from Dr. Tom Eyssell regarding the UMSL Retirees Association. He shared a list of upcoming events, including a Fall outing at Chandler Hill Winery on October 13, a de-cluttering workshop with breakfast on November 6, and the annual Holiday Luncheon on Friday, December 12. At the conclusion of his presentation, he distributed a sign-up sheet with additional information.

There being no other business, Dr. Bhatia adjourned the University Assembly meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Gibb
Senate/Assembly Secretary

(Minutes written by Allison Belew, Faculty Senate/University Assembly Office)