

Davis, Teresa L. (Provost Office)

From: Justice, George
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 8:42 AM
To: Foster, Brian L. (Provost)
Subject: NSEI--what next?

Brian,

We have to figure out what to do next.

Do we want to ask the faculty to come back to agreeing to the "big vision" document that was put on hold as we explored the move to engineering (which no longer seems feasible)?

Do we want to edit that document in light of the seeming intransigence of the faculty to move forward productively?

Or do we want to scrap that document and start over from where we were with the original "reorganization" memos that you and I sent out?

I think there are several reasons we need to think about this sooner rather than later.

One of the points in the document is the naming of a director. ^{Redacted}
^{Redacted} I understand from the Collected Rules that, officially, chairs are named by the Chancellor. In practice, of course, deans make the call. Of course, the NSEI was established as a "center," but the rules for a "center" prescribe, for the "director," a role "much like that of a department chairperson," and since there are tenure lines in NSEI, the role is exactly like that of the chair.

http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/rules/collected_rules/administration/ch20/20.110_department_chair

Since we raised that issue in the pending large document, I am sure the faculty are going to nounce on it, since Sudarshan has been talking about the need of an official director ^{Redacted} for a long time. If ^{Redacted} they will ask for the additional financial help that comes with a department chair (as stated in the rules and regulations). Naming a director, even for a two-year term, will make it more difficult to make transitions as we need to make them in the next two years.

I still lean toward taking the "hard line" and going back to the reorganization documents as a starting point. But we should talk about it.

Best,
George

--
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Moore, Marsha M.

From: Justice, George
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 12:01 PM
To: Dean, Kenneth D.
Subject: Fwd: Editorial in St Louis Dispatch

More.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stephen Montgomery-Smith <stephen@MISSOURI.EDU>
Date: May 1, 2012 11:17:42 AM CDT
To: <AAUP-MU@PO.MISSOURI.EDU>
Subject: Re: Editorial in St Louis Dispatch
Reply-To: AAUP-MU <AAUP-MU@PO.MISSOURI.EDU>

On the other hand, while I agree with some of the general criticisms the editorial lays out, I don't think I would agree with proposed solutions. The editorial cites the document http://www.deltacostproject.org/resources/pdf/business_analytics.pdf. Ultimately this is a "right wing think tank" solution, and while I am generally right wing, I don't think the solutions offered in this document would fix anything at MU.

On 04/30/12 17:14, Stephen Montgomery-Smith wrote:

Yes, but there are a number of things in the article that should give us cause for concern. I am looking at these issues in the context of recent goings on, such as the Electrical Engineering issue involving Greg Engel, or the recent attempt to close the Nuclear Engineering Dept.

I would not advocate closing the Engineering School at MU. But I would ask ourselves the question - are our actions giving us a poor defense against those who would advocate such an action?

The notion of mission creep wasting resources is not unknown at MU. We are creating new programs like "Mizzou Advantage" and slowly defunding old programs like the "Research Board." We are becoming less and less concerned with real quality, and more concerned with appearance and prestige.

Furthermore, I do believe that the author is correct when he says that Floyd was "driven out." When the scandals arose over Floyd and his wife, I didn't follow it very carefully, and I assumed that the gossip about him was largely correct. But having now had a chance to review the old newspaper stories, it is becoming obvious to me that their actions were way overblown by the press, and that there was probably an agenda driving the way the scandal was reported.

When the Engineering School starts to take money from one group, and give it to another for reasons involving nothing more than internal politics, and when they try to drum up charges against someone because they squeal as they are stabbed in the back, this has to look bad.

I had opportunity to talk with a local politician recently. I asked him about how politicians could intervene in University affairs to reduce activities that could reduce waste. He responded that they really have no power, except to take punitive actions against MU.

There is a lack of accountability at MU which makes it impossible for us to figure out what is really going on. We need to listen to what people are saying, and examine ourselves, not get defensive and assume that just because some of what they say is rhetoric, that all the rest is also.

On 04/30/2012 04:20 PM, Hofmann, Steven wrote:

Hi Stephen,

Thanks for the article, but it may be based on a false premise, namely,

the idea that UM-Rolla's engineering school is "one of the best in the

country",

while MU's is somehow second rate. Here is a link to the latest US News and World Report rankings of engineering schools:

<http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-engineering-schools/eng-rankings/page+4>

MU is ranked #80, and UM-Rolla #82. Admittedly, the USN&WR rankings

are far from definitive,

but I tend to believe that they are at least somewhat accurate as regards "order of magnitude".

If you accept this, then it is reasonable to claim that MU's engineering school is at least roughly on a par with Rolla's, and not some vastly inferior "redundant" enterprise that ought to be shut down for budgetary reasons. It also seems reasonable to claim that "one of the best engineering schools in the country" would

have garnered better than an 82nd place ranking...

best regards,

Steve

From: Stephen Montgomery-Smith [stephen@missouri.edu]

Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 11:46 AM

To: AAUP-MU; MU A&S Math Faculty

Subject: Editorial in St Louis Dispatch

This article has some hard things to say about MU, and HE in general.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/columns/the-platform/editorial-real-cancer-in-higher-education-is-lack-of-affordability/article_cb10d756-5d2b-5630-a9c5-c78669619c9f.html

To quote:

"One of the dirty little secrets of higher education finance is that competition leads to increased spending and mission creep rather than to

greater differentiation of products, in part because of the absence of

measures of quality, leading institutions to treat money and prestige as surrogates for excellence."

Case in point: the Missouri University of Science and Technology. With

one of the best engineering schools in the country in Rolla, why does

the University of Missouri continue to prop up an expensive and mostly

redundant engineering school on its Columbia campus 75 miles away?

In Missouri, regional public universities compete for funding. Local

state lawmakers fight for "their" school rather than treating the university system as a unified state asset. The last University of Missouri president to propose serious consolidation of the state system

was Elson Floyd, who was run out of Columbia in 2007, in part for pointing out the obvious.

This is a serious national problem. It is bigger than any student's or parent's unaffordable tuition debt, any state's Balkanized college fiefdoms or any overblown war of words between the president and a

congressman stumping for higher office.

Moore, Marsha M.

From: McGruder, Ann C.
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 10:58 PM
To: Deaton, Brady (Chancellor)
Cc: Middleton, Michael; Foster, Brian L. (Provost); McGruder, Ann C.
Subject: RE: NSEI

Good evening.

None here. I was hopeful perhaps he phoned you. There has been no phone calls to the office nor any emails to you.

We did not send the information to the BOC, we only sent it to Wolfe. Do you want it sent from you to the BOC? I understood Tim was forwarding.

-----Original Message-----

From: Deaton, Brady (Chancellor)
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 10:29 PM
To: McGruder, Ann C.
Cc: Middleton, Michael; Foster, Brian L. (Provost)
Subject: NSEI

Any feedback from President Wolfe on the NSEI matter? Was the material shared with the Board of Curators?

Thanks.

Brady

Sent from my iPad