

To: Members, Lincoln University Board of Curators

Thru: Dr. Carolyn R. Mahoney, President

From: Dr. Debra F. Greene, Chair

Re: February 2010 Faculty Senate Report

During the October 29, 2009 meeting, the Faculty Senate approved the following recommendation from the Educational Policies Committee:

FS 2009-2010-04 – Lincoln University will accept the IELTS (International English Language Testing System), with 5.0 as the cutoff score, as an acceptable test of English language proficiency for International students entering the university whose native or official language is not English; and remove the GCE (General Certificate of Education) from the list of English language proficiency examinations.

The proposal was presented to the committee by the Office of Admissions with the rationale that the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is currently used by 6,000 organizations throughout the world. Over 2,000 universities in the United States recognize and accept the IELTS exam. In Missouri, 17 institutions recognize the IELTS. It is the only English language proficiency examination that tests candidates on four areas of English usage: speaking, writing, listening and reading. The GCE is a certificate from the University of London and is not a proficiency examination. It is merely the student's exit examination upon leaving secondary school. The proposal does not change our acceptance of the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language, or the MELAB (Michigan English Language Assessment Battery) as acceptable tools to assess English Proficiency.

During the November 19, 2009 meeting, the Faculty Senate approved the following recommendation from the Educational Policies committee as an attempt to address the issue of student academic performance and retention when students are deregistered from course work before financial arrangements have been finalized:

FS 2009-2010-05 - Students be allowed to attend classes and remain on the roster of the courses in which they are enrolled until they are permanently dis-enrolled from those classes.

The Faculty Senate chair attended the fall meeting of the Missouri Association of Faculty Senates, October 5, 2009. Dr. Tim Gallimore, Chief Academic Officer, Missouri Department of Higher Education discussed Missouri's focus for using the federal stimulus package money. According to Dr. Gallimore emphasis will be placed on three centers/sectors of excellence:

- Student issues/services
- Alternative/renewable energy
- Homeland security and campus safety

The Senate Executive Committee met on November 17, 2009 to discuss issues brought forth by the MAFS regarding budget cuts in higher education. The committee charged the chair with meeting with President Mahoney to inquire about the University's funding priorities and to stress that academics should not bear the burden of balancing the university's budget.

On November 24, 2009, the chair met with Dr. Mahoney on faculty concerns regarding state government budget cuts and its impact on Lincoln University. The chair was informed that the amount of cuts was 5% or \$1 million and that President Mahoney and her cabinet were already at work. And that the concern registered by the Faculty Senate Executive committee would be taken under consideration as the work moves forward.

President Mahoney and the senate chair discussed MDHE's Curriculum Alignment Initiative and its impact on Lincoln's student population, particularly African American males. Dr. Mahoney stressed the importance of staying true to Lincoln's original mission of providing access and opportunities to and in higher education.

The faculty senate chair met with Dr. Annette Digby, VPAA, on December 2, 2009. We discussed the academic budget, academic initiatives for improving student outcomes, faculty concerns relating to student suspensions and expulsions, security for night classes, campus emergency alert systems, academic alert systems for students beyond the freshman year and implementing the textbook provisions of the federal Higher Education Opportunity Act.

The Faculty Senate will not meet in January but will support the Staff Council's Weapons on Campus forum scheduled January 28, 2010, 11:00 – 12:30 p.m. in Langston Hughes auditorium.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Debra F. Greene
Faculty Senate Chair, 2009-2010