Report from Dr. Susan Carlson (Chair, FASC):
This is the last meeting for Faculty Assembly and Susan Carlson as Chair for this academic year. Karen Wambach is the next Faculty Assembly Committee Chair.

A total of five meetings were held over this last academic year. The bylaws require only a fall and spring meeting. One meeting was scheduled to discuss regarding seven proposed changes to the Faculty and Unclassified Staff Handbook that were suggested by the Faculty Concerns Committee. Another meeting was held to hear answers that were sent to Dr. Barbara Atkinson via open e-mail to faculty. The attendance surpassed expectations as the auditorium was full. A third meeting was held to solicit feedback from faculty about what they see as important features of a candidate for the Chancellor’s position. That feedback was provided to Dr. Pam Shaw, who was selected by Mr. Reggie Robinson to be on the search committee representing Faculty Assembly. Dr. Karen Miller, who also served on the search committee, was also provided that feedback.

The Faculty Assembly Steering Committee worked to refine the proposed changes to the Faculty and Unclassified Staff Handbook. With help from both faculty and administration to provide the reasons for and against change, the proposed changes went forward for a vote with these explanations. When Dr. Susan Carlson last checked the votes this morning (June 3, 2009), a total of 214 faculty members had voted. Thus, the requirement for a valid vote has already been met. Faculty members have two more weeks to vote.

Positive actions for recognition of Faculty Governance:

We were asked by Mr. Reginald Robinson from Kansas Board of Regents to provide the names of three faculty members to serve on the search committee for a new chancellor. As noted above, Dr. Pam Shaw was the KUMC faculty representative and Dr. Karen Miller also served on the search committee representing administration. Dr. Pam Shaw is teaching and cannot give a report, but she stated that Dr. Gray-Little was the unanimous choice of the committee and has all the attributes faculty wanted in a chancellor.

Dr. Barbara Atkinson requested faculty to be elected to a newly created Vendor Relations Oversight Committee. One faculty member was elected from Schools of Allied Health, Nursing, Medicine and Pharmacy and from Wichita. The Elections Committee solicited names for the election. As well, Dr. Barbara Atkinson invited Dr. Susan Carlson to serve as faculty representing faculty governance on her Budget Advisory Committee.

Monthly meetings with Drs. Susan Carlson and Karen Wambach and the Executive Vice Chancellor (EVC) occurred this year. It has opened communication between Faculty Assembly Steering Committee and the EVC.

Beta testing of a suggestion box to be available to the Chair of Faculty Concerns was conducted. A decision as to whether or not to put such a system in place will be made at the final meeting of the Faculty Assembly Steering Committee. At that meeting, new committee members will be introduced and suggestions from Faculty Assembly and individual members for next year’s agenda will be considered.

A plea was made for administrative support for the Faculty Assembly Steering Committee (FASC) which would include taking minutes, scheduling meetings, posting to the website, and announcements to faculty. Dr. Carlson thanked the Offices of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Academic Affairs for providing support in taking the minutes, however, it would be ideal to have a designated support person identified to provide support for FASC.
Dr. Carlson thanked Karen Wambach who was really a co-chair of the Faculty Assembly Steering Committee (FASC) by attending meetings with the EVC and KBOR. FASC members were also thanked for serving which include Diane Boyle who replaced Ginger Breedlove (School of Nursing), Deb Sullivan (School of Allied Health), Ann Davis (Co-Chair with Deb Sullivan, Research Committee), Tim Williamson (School of Medicine Council), Mike Rapoff (elected to Faculty Assembly by School of Medicine), Kathleen Brewer (Chair, Information Resources), Beth Levant (Chair, Faculty Concerns), and Irina Smirnova (Chair, Elections).

Report from Dr. Karen Wambach:
The Council of Faculty Senate Presidents (COFSP) consists of an advisory group of faculty senate presidents from each of the Kansas Regent Universities. As Drs. Carlson and Wambach attended these meetings, they found mandates from the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) that haven’t been completed but will be in the future. The Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) Report was provided as a handout. Strategic plans for higher education was created and needs were identified. Progress has been made and data has been collected on those recommendations. COFSP has been more active this year than in the past. Some of the activities include recruiting and retaining non-salary faculty across Regent institutions, and reviewing the 60-day waiting period for health insurance, which could be a recruitment issue. However, it is a regulation and is overseen by the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA). KBOR is working with KHPA. Another matter included tuition waivers for faculty dependents. KBOR policies permit tuition assistance for dependents but it also provides that actual dollars have to be allocated for each credit hour. An effort is in place to change the policy to eliminate the reference of dollars and allow each university to create its own program with KBOR approval. An additional endeavor explored included a “lost” policy on faculty teaching awards that KBOR awards annually for each university. The final task of COFSP was to revive the faculty morale survey. It is now called the faculty input survey. COFSP determined it should be adopted. This survey will provide a ranking of faculty input and their priorities on these issues across the State of Kansas. It should be administered every 2-3 years.

Elections Committee – Irina Smirnova, Chair
The Elections Committee Chair, Irina Smirnova provided the results of the election. The ballots went out to 832 eligible faculty members. A total of 273 responses or 32.8% were received, which was a valid quorum. Results are provided below.

Elections Committee
1 from School of Allied Health (SAH):
   Peggy Waggoner
1 from School of Medicine (SOM):
   Ellen McCarthy

Faculty Concerns Committee
1 tenured from School of Allied Health (SAH):
   Jeff Radel
1 from any school:
   Stewart Babbott (SOM)

Information Resources Committee
1 tenured from School of Allied Health (SAH):
   Joan McDowd
2 tenured from School of Medicine (SOM):
   Andrei Belousov
   Sally Rigler
Faculty Assembly Spring 2009 Meeting
June 3, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.
G013 School of Nursing (KC)/Founders Room (W)

Research Committee
1 tenured from School of Allied Health (SAH):
   Susan Carlson

Steering Committee
1 tenured from School of Medicine (SOM):
   Gary Doolittle

Vendor Relations Oversight Committee (VROC)
1 from School of Allied Health (SAH):
   Susan Carlson
1 from School of Medicine - Kansas City Campus (SOM):
   Pam Shaw
1 from School of Medicine - Wichita Campus (SOM-W):
   Garold Minns
1 from School of Nursing (SON):
   Anita Wingate
1 from School of Pharmacy (SOP), Department of Pharmacy Practice:
   Harold Godwin

Research Committee – Debra Sullivan, Chair
The two main agenda items for the Research Committee were faculty travel and Faculty Research Day. A budget of $17,000 was allotted for travel and $23,000 for Faculty Research Day. Travel awards are offered three times per year with $5,666 allowed per occurrence. During the fall, a total of 19 applications were collected and 16 (84%) of those were funded. In January, the total number received was 27 applicants. The total funded was 21 of the 27 (80%) which was 50% of what was requested. The applications have been accepted for May, but Dr. Sullivan was not sure how many applications were submitted. It was a total of $10,000 requested. Equipment requests have been submitted. The total amount requested was $22,500. However, only 5 of 8 requests with a total of $4,000 was funded. Faculty Research Day for 2009 will be held on November 3, 2009. Some discussion occurred about canceling the event this year due to the budget issues. However, it was felt that it is an important event for faculty. One accommodation was made that instead of paying for a keynote speaker, the faculty member that won the Chancellor’s Award would be the keynote speaker.

Faculty Concerns – Beth Levant
A written report was provided in the handouts. The Faculty Concerns Committee has worked on three issues this year. One issue was the proposed revisions to the Faculty Handbook. Another is the suggestions box. Some progress has been made in developing a secure website for faculty to provide feedback. A beta version should be available at the next Faculty Assembly Steering Committee meeting. A student representative, Ozan Kumru has joined the Faculty Concerns Committee as the student representative.

Information Resources – Ken Davis for Kathleen Brewer, Chair
The Information Resources Committee report was provided as a handout. Some of the concerns for this committee over this last academic year include developing policies for the use of facilities and growth of information resources and establish priorities of funds. Due to budget constraints, the amount of resources in Dykes Library has decreased. One of the bigger issues for this committee is copyright regulations. It is working on reversing its policy at a federal level. Online literature is becoming difficult to access as it becomes more restrictive. Other issues that this committee has addressed include clinical reference tools available and institutional digital repository where faculty can publish articles, research articles, and another other material
that might be beneficial to the university. Also due to the budget reduction, the library will change its hours of operation (close earlier during the week and reduce weekend hours) and reduce the journal subscriptions in the Dykes Library collection. A frequently asked questions handout about these changes was also included in the handout. In order to establish priority, the usage data from calendar year 2008 was used. Faculty are encouraged to review the journals being eliminated. Although, a decision was needed by mid-June, it will not impact the subscriptions until January 2010. The committee noted its appreciation for Dr. Karen Cole and her work during this difficult time. Concerns can be sent to Mr. Ken Davis, the committee, or Dr. Karen Cole.

This committee is also in the process of replacing Kathleen Brewer.

**EVC Report – Dr. Barbara Atkinson**

Dr. Atkinson announced that she is pleased with the selection of Dr. Bernadette Gray-Little as the new Chancellor. She did have the opportunity to meet with her. Drs. Karen Miller and Pam Shaw were on the search committee. Dr. Gray-Little has an impressive work history. She is coming from a National Cancer Institute designated center that is also in the top four in the nation. Even though it was has not been announced, Dr. Atkinson has been asked to serve as Interim Chancellor until Dr. Gray-Little arrives on August 15. She is coming to visit KUMC on Friday, June 12. An agenda is being created for her visit, which coincides with the School of Medicine Medical Education Retreat. Dr. Atkinson also plans to set aside time to introduce Dr. Gray-Little to the faculty that day. One of the top priorities will be fundraising. Dr. Atkinson has already started the capital campaign on this campus and Lawrence will be beginning this campaign soon.

The total KUMC budget cuts for FY10 is $12 million. With the budget reduction plan that began in March 2009, it reduced it down by $9.7 million. A shortfall remains of $2.4 million. It might possibly be two more million. Some new F&A income of $300,000 might be coming in. A proposal was made to KBOR for a 4% increase in tuition which would generate $1 million. At its last meeting, the KBOR response was mixed and final action was delayed until the June meeting. Therefore, KBOR might not allow the proposed tuition increase. All the other schools have also asked for a tuition increase. One concern with raising the tuition is that the LCME cited the School of Medicine because of student indebtedness. Last year, the tuition was held the same. Dr. Atkinson indicated a differential tuition program for Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Nurse Anesthesia had been proposed. They will receive differential tuition where it costs more money per credit hour for new students and the money stays in the department. Another option that might be possible is that we might receive more research funding than the $300,000. With the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus package, we might have more flexibility with the money. The federal stimulus will provide funding for deferred maintenance. KUMC will receive $866,000 that will provide renovation in Lied, roof repair and elevator renovations. The state normally allocates money for deferred maintenance. A deferred maintenance budget item of $800,000 was removed from the FY10 budget. Furloughs might be an option for additional cuts for FY10. In FY09, the average daily payroll is $771,000 compared to the total average general use payroll which is $426,000. A furlough of 2.3 days would save $1 million. This one sample model used would exclude non-faculty that earn less than $30,000, anyone on an H-1B Visa, and housestaff. With these exclusions, the total average general use payroll would reduce to $352,000. Therefore, it would take 2.8 days of furlough to save $1 million. However, we may need to cut an additional $2 million next year. State revenue is 23.3% or $103.5 million lower than the original estimates. If the state revenue decreases, it will wipe out the estimated $79.9 million surplus that was to carryover to an even tighter FY10 budget. It has been noted that Kansas has the seventh best economy. In order for Governor Parkinson to reduce the $22.5 million deficit in the budget, an increase in taxes may take place or delay in certain payments (e.g. tax refunds, money to school districts). Many deciding factors will be determined in the month of June. One of the biggest issues considering FY10 is that payroll starts mid-June. Additional cuts might be needed in FY10, but the Medical
Center has limited options. The Handbook has a noted clause that programs cannot be closed due to financial reasons. Other outside services such as the AHEC sites and programs that do not provide degrees could be cut. However, there are not many of these programs, they are important to our outreach to the state and it would not save that much money to cut those programs. In September, budget preparation will need to begin for FY11. KUMC needs to look at the future as well, not just the current year. During times like these, faculty should work together.

Wrap-up of meeting:

Faculty Assembly Steering Committee would like to hear of any initiatives that faculty would like to pursue this upcoming academic year by sending an email to Drs. Karen Wambach or Susan Carlson. A vote on the site for the secure, confidential feedback will be taken at the next FASC meeting. An email regarding the voting on the Handbook changes will be sent out June 16 when results are complete. A comment was made that a 2/3 majority needs to be achieved on each item of the handbook for it to pass.

Dr. Susan Carlson received a thank you for her accomplishments as the Faculty Assembly Steering Committee Chair during this last academic year.