

Intercampus Faculty Cabinet
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 11-12, 2025

Welcome, Introductions and Overview

David Westenberg, IFC Chair

Chair Westenberg convened the meeting with introductions, a discussion of the purpose of the IFC group expectations, and priority areas for the academic year.

Human Resources Updates

Marsha Fischer, Vice President for Human Resources (UM)

Cari Lyman, Human Resources Director II – Retirement (UM)

Fischer and Lyman provided updates on the voluntary Defined Contribution (DC) Opt-In Program, employee benefits, the addition of the Veterans' Day holiday required by state law, a new Curators' Outstanding Staff Award, and changes to mandatory employee training. Fischer and Lyman also provided updates on the implementation of Maxient, an online system for managing faculty code of conduct issues and academic grievances, and gave an update on efforts to improve processes related to unpaid courtesy appointments.

Information and Academic Technology Updates

Benjamin Canlas, Vice President for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer (UM)

Amber Cheek, Director of Accessibility (UM) & ADA Coordinator (MU)

Danna Wren, Senior Director of Academic Technology (UM)

IT Updates: Canlas highlighted improvements made to the software procurement process, including a streamlined process for certain agreements and the hiring of new personnel to handle requests. IT also has plans to roll out additional resources for use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ShowMeAI. He also noted that Team Dynamics software has replaced Cherwell.

Office of Accessibility Updates: Cheek provided updates on Ally software and other accessibility tools that aid in converting PDFs to digitally accessible documents and initiatives to improve the review of online content for accessibility.

Academic Technology Updates: Wren discussed the various tools that are currently available such as Ally, TidyUp, Microsoft & Canvas Accessibility tools, specialty tools for STEM courses, and PDF remediation options available in DoIT.

Finance Updates

Ryan Rapp, Executive Vice President of Finance & Operations/Chief Financial Officer (UM)

Rapp provided an overview of the University budget, resource allocation principles, and key budget drivers. He provided an overview of key challenges and opportunities for the University in the current fiscal and economic climate, and an assessment of long-term trends in federal research revenues, state appropriations, enrollment, and tuition revenue.

President's Session

Mun Choi, President of the University of Missouri

President Choi answered questions from IFC members on a wide range of items, such as changes in the higher education landscape over the last several months and concerns related to research funding, academic freedom, and shared governance.

Academic Affairs Hot Topics and Updates

John Middleton, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief of Staff, UM

Steven Chaffin, Academic Affairs Program Director, UM

Middleton and Chaffin discussed the new state requirement that UM System universities observe Veterans' Day, a new law mandating a common statewide 60-hour core curriculum for certain programs with large numbers of transfer students, new requirements related to the acceptance of International Baccalaureate exam scores for college credit, and improvements to the process for submitting honorary doctorate nominations.

State and Federal Relations Updates

Dustin Schnieders, Assistant Vice President for Government Relations, UM

Schnieders provided an overview of both state and federal legislative initiatives. He discussed the impact of state and federal funding changes and the passage of the Degree Bill allowing Missouri State University to offer research doctorates (PhDs) while maintaining the UM System's status as the sole public university grantor of professional and engineering degrees. He answered questions related to proposals to institute a new performance-based funding model in Missouri and nationwide discussions related to congressional redistricting.

Reflections and Wrap Up

The group held several planning sessions throughout the retreat to discuss plans, speakers, topics and next steps for the 2025-2026 year. The IFC will next meet on October 13 via Zoom.

Updated: 09/02/2025