

MSU Faculty Senate

December Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 9, 2004, in the President's Board Room in the Hardin Building. Senators present included: Arnoult, Sharon; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Coe, Mary Ann; Comello, Robert; Cuevas, Jacqueline; Curran, Barbara; Davids, Mark; Hansen, Chris; Johnston, Chuck; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); Montoya, Claudia; Redmon, Bob (Vice Chair); Roberts, Roe; Scales, Jon; Schuppener, James; Shao, Chris; Slavens, Dawn (Parliamentarian); Stiles, Beverly; Tucker, David (Chair). Also in attendance to address the Faculty Senate were Jenny Duncan from the MSU bookstore and Assistant Professor of English Sue Henson.

The following topics were discussed:

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

The November minutes had been previously approved by e-mail vote.

Current Business

- A. Bookstore news: Jenny Duncan from the MSU bookstore wanted to update the Faculty Senate on news from the store. She shared the following information:
1. There has been a 37% increase in book sales with early ordering.
 2. 95% of adoptions and book orders are in stock for the spring semester.
 3. The bookstore's buyback policy pays half of what a student pays for a new or a used book.
 4. The last payback Barnes and Noble made to MSU was \$245,000. This is a \$45,000 increase from its previous payment. Jenny's goal is to increase that figure every year.
 5. She is planning to ask for fall and summer orders at the same next semester. She realizes that many professors cannot do this for various reasons, but this ordering plan will simplify the ordering process for those who can order for both summer and fall simultaneously.
 6. Jenny opened the floor for questions and comments. Senator Arnoult asked if the buyback program could wait until finals week to start to ensure that students keep their books for the length of the course.
- B. Faculty office hours: As a result of the Senate's discussion of office hours at the November meeting, it had decided to investigate the office hours' policy and teaching load at Texas state universities similar to MSU. Dawn Slavens and Stuart McClintock examined these policies at thirteen universities. Most of the universities have a twelve hour teaching load per semester. Two universities required twelve office hours per week, three had eight hours, and the rest had something between five and seven hours per week.

Discussion revealed that faculty members often do not have any students come during their ten office hours per week; conversely, professors frequently meet with students at times other than their posted office hours in order to accommodate the latter's needs. Student need for access to faculty also varies over the course of the semester.

The faculty discussed having a more flexible office hours' policy that would continue to meet the needs of students and would allow better utilization of faculty time by not requiring professors to be in their offices for ten scheduled hours every week.

It was suggested that faculty might have fewer mandatory office hours per week but would also offer supplemental meetings by appointment and extended availability during advising.

Chairman Tucker will bring this idea up with Provost Wiedemann.

- C. IDEA. Sue Henson had asked to speak to the faculty to discuss a project she is working on with the support of the provost about the IDEA evaluation system. She has polled about fifteen faculty members in the six MSU colleges about many aspects of IDEA such as its administration, its questions (both type and amount), and the legibility of its results.

The Faculty Senate further discussed the evaluation tool giving both positive and negative aspects of it. Concern was expressed about student and faculty reaction to the instrument, problems with the administration of the instrument, and problems with the interpretation of the results.

The senators asked Chairman Tucker to share the Senate's comments about IDEA with Provost Wiedemann, expressing the view that if any corrective actions are to be taken for spring semester, the time is very short, and plans for them need to be made quickly.

Committee Reports

- A. Academic Council (Bob Redmon): no report
- B. Administrative Council (David Tucker): no report
- C. Board of Regents (David Tucker): no report
- D. Budget Oversight Council (David Tucker): no report
- E. Enrollment Management Council (Beverly Stiles): no report
- F. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Chris Hansen): no report
- G. Student Affairs Council (Dawn Slavens): see addendum
- H. Alumni Association Council: (Chris Shao) no report
- I. Other Committees: none at this time

Financial Report

Treasurer Bultena reported that the Senate has 300 dollars in its account.

Next Executive Committee is Tuesday January 11, 2005 at 3:00 in Apache Board Room, CSC .

Next Faculty Senate is Thursday, January 13, 2005, at 3:00 in the Cheyenne Meeting room.

David Tucker
Chair

Stuart McClintock
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

