

MSU Faculty Senate

October Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 14, 2004, in the Cheyenne Meeting Room of the Clark Student Center. Senators present included Arnoult, Sharon; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Coe, Mary Ann; Curran, Barbara; Davids, Mark; Hansen, Chris; Johnston, Chuck; Kilgore, Lon; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); Montoya, Claudia; Redmon, Bob (Vice Chair); Scales, Jon; Schuppener, James; Slavens, Dawn (Parliamentarian); Stiles, Beverly; Tucker, David (Chair); Van Ael, Peter. Lynette Watts represented Robert Comello, and Charles Ramser represented Chris Shao. President Jesse Rogers was also in attendance.

The following topics were discussed

Chairman Tucker asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. Senator Kilgore moved for its approval, Senator Arnoult seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved. Minutes from the August meeting had previously been approved by e-mail. (There was no September Senate meeting.)

Current Business

1. Dr. Rogers addressed the Senate to discuss two particular areas: raising admissions standards and the short- and long-term budget. Before addressing these two issues, he also informed the Senate of other relevant matters.

A. Dr. Rogers first gave the fall semester's enrollment figures. He said that enrollment was down, but that both credit hours and full-time equivalents (FTE's) were up.

B. He also stated that the university had lost 800 hours of revenue from the state under the latter's "threepeat" rule. If a student is taking the same course for a third time, the state does not contribute its share of the course's cost. Dr. Rogers is trying to find a solution to this shortfall. One suggestion he made was to make the student responsible for the full cost of the course.

C. Dr. Rogers said that housing for the fall 2004 semester had filled in three days. Renovation of Killingsworth is complete and is now occupied. Renovation of Pierce Hall has begun, and it will be ready to be occupied in September 2004. After these renovations, the university will have a total of 320 more beds for students.

D. Dr. Rogers mentioned that the university had lost four million dollars in state funding in four years while adding 1,000 new students.

E. Distance education: Dr. Rogers stated that the average age of distance education students is thirty-six, while the average age of classroom students is twenty-four. He thought that web courses would grow if the university invested in them. He said that web courses were expensive to maintain, and that he was considering increasing the distance education fee to meet the higher cost of these programs.

F. The President talked about the governor's new accountability system. Increasingly, funding will move away from being based on numbers and will become based more on

meeting accountability standards. This system includes twenty different standards to reach or on which to improve. According to the state, this will be new funding on top of credit-hour funding. Dr. Rogers said that he did not see how this funding could be new. Dr. Rogers said that there were two standards in particular at which the university was doing well at present. The university's student-teacher ratio has dropped from twenty-four to one to nineteen to one, which is a very good ratio among the state's public institutions. Secondly, the university has a large number of freshman/sophomore courses taught by tenured or tenure-track professors. The university already receives a half a million dollars for having so many tenured or tenure-track professors in the classroom for lower-level courses. Dr. Rogers also mentioned that we do less well meeting other standards. First, our graduation rate of freshmen over a six-year period is twenty-six percent and is among the lowest in the state. (A freshman is defined as a full-time first-year student starting in summer or fall. Any student who graduates but did not start at Midwestern under the definition of a freshman is not counted in this statistic.) Dr. Rogers said that one factor contributing to low graduation rates was that thirty-five percent of freshmen drop out in their first year. Secondly, Dr. Rogers stated that forty-two percent of freshmen take remedial courses, which is also a high percentage. Improving these underperforming academic areas led to Dr. Rogers' discussion about raising admissions standards in the future.

G. Admissions Standards: Dr. Rogers is putting together a committee to address raising admissions standards. At the moment, the university automatically accepts students in the top twenty-five percent of their graduating class. The SAT/ACT scores of enough of these students are low enough that Dr. Rogers would like to change automatic admission to those in the top ten percent of a graduating class. He also stated that the problem that arises when admissions standards are raised is an initial dip in enrollment and its concomitant revenue loss. He said that after this initial dip, enrollment usually does come back.

H. Budget outlook: Dr. Rogers first gave an overview of budgetary issues from the past few years. The university had to send back 1.7 million dollars to the state in spring 2002. The state defaulted on a half a million dollar debt that they had carried for the university. The state shorted the university a half a million dollars a year in fringe benefits. The state shorted the university one million dollars in the last biennium. The funding formula cut ten dollars per credit hour that resulted in a two million dollar shortfall.

Dr. Rogers said that raising tuition again is a necessity. He believes that a twenty-one dollar increase per credit hour will be eased in over a couple of semesters, starting in spring 2005. He believes that the university can meet its budgetary needs over the next two years with this increase.

Because of the projected tuition increase, Dr. Rogers stated that when a university assesses more than forty-five dollars per credit hour, it must set aside twenty percent of amount above \$45 for financial aid.

2. Piper Nominee: Chairman Tucker will ask each of the professors nominated for this year's Piper Award to write a brief letter with pertinent information that will help the Senate choose one candidate to be the university's nominee for 2004-2005. The candidates so far are Ruth Morrow from the College of Fine Arts; Magaly Rincon-Zachary from the College of Science and Mathematics; Charles Bultena from the

College of Business Administration; Jim Hoggard from the College of Liberal Arts; and Mary Ann Coe from the College of Education.

3. Faculty Award: The nominees for this award will be chosen by a two-stage election among the faculty. The winner will be announced at the December graduation ceremony. The nominees so far are Laura Jefferson from the College of Fine Arts; Michael Shipley from the College of Science and Mathematics; Yoshi Fukasawa from the College of Business Administration; Beverly Stiles from the College of Liberal Arts; and Ann Estrada from the College of Education.

4. Posting each professor's curriculum vitae: A suggestion was made to the Provost to have professors' CV's posted on the college website. Senator Arnoult thought it should be encouraged but not required. Senator Bultena said that the university could not mandate the posting of CV's. The general consensus was to leave the decision up to the individual to post his/her CV on the college's site.

5. Course Evaluations: The Senate considered the suggestion to establish a university policy dealing with students who arrive late to class when the evaluation form is being filled out. The Senate generally agreed that policy should be established within each department.

The IDEA evaluation tool will be administered during the week of November 15-19.

6. Policy review committee membership: Provost Wiedemann sees the need to change sections 3.111, 3.114, and 3.116 of the policy manual to bring those sections in line with the new Rank and Promotion standards and to eliminate inconsistencies. She has suggested that an ad hoc committee composed of two deans, two department heads, and two professors could revise these three sections of the policy manual.

7. Report from committee on academic dishonesty: Vice-Chair Redmon delivered the report on academic dishonesty to the Senate but emphasized that the report was still unfinished. The primary change in policy is that a student will no longer appeal an academic dishonesty issue to the Student Conduct Committee. That appeal will now be treated by the Academic Appeals Committee. There followed a lot of discussion about the wording of the document, about the procedure for reprimanding a student accused of cheating, and about the extent of professors' ability to dismiss a student from a course. Senator Redmon will convey two primary questions the Senate has to those working on this document further. What are the guidelines for what a professor can do to a student caught cheating? Who must be informed if a student is caught cheating and is punished?

8. Atomic Clock on the MSU website: Senators Hansen suggested using the Atomic Clock on campus for purposes of punctuality and uniformity. Senator Coe stated that this idea had been removed from the Strategic Plan because of its cost. Senator Davids suggested that the university website could post the accurate time even if we do not use the Atomic Clock.

Committee Reports

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

Financial Report

Treasurer Bultena reported that the Senate had \$138 dollars in its account. He has requested an additional 1,262 from the President's office.

Committee Reports:

1. Board of Regents Meeting Oct 1, 2004

10/14/04

The MSU Board of Regents met on Friday October 1, 2004 to consider action in the suit brought about by former president Henry Moon. The following resolution was passed:

“Recommend that the Board of Regents authorize the Chairperson of the Board and the President to conclude an agreement based on the terms proposed at the conclusion of the September 20, 2004 mediation, and further authorize the utilization of Board Quasi-Endowment Fund 6-65005 to implement the foregoing resolution.”

Respectfully submitted,

David Tucker
Faculty Senate Chair

2. Student Affairs Council Meeting

9/21/04

Report by Dawn Slavens

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Keith Lamb. Due to another obligation by Dr. Farrell he was unable to attend much of this meeting. A round-table discussion was held in which each member of the committee reported about the happenings of his/her area of student affairs.

Some topics of interest that were discussed:

- Board items for this year include Housing, Health Center, and New Wellness Center/Recreation Center
- There was a record crowd of 9500 people at the football game on Saturday, September 18th. Encourage participation in Tailgate party.
- Joey Greenwood is working with the architect for planning the proposed new Wellness Center/Recreation Center. The student body will vote on whether or not they want this new center. The addition of the new center would increase student fees.
- Killingworth hall has been renovated and students are now living there. Renovation has begun on Pierce hall. It is planned to be completed by next fall.
- A Grenada relief fund was established at Wells Fargo bank.
- Mr. Dail Neely is working with the committee (other committee members include Dr. Bob Redmon and Dr. Grant Simpson) to deal with the consequences of cheating.
- Students have been parking wherever they want. If faculty/staff places are taken up, faculty will not be ticketed for parking in student spaces. There were 5200 tickets written last year.
- The number of students currently registered with Disability Services is 106. Last year there were 121. Several of the students registered last year have graduated, indicating that the students are getting the services that they need.
- The Health Center has started leaving some appointments open each day for same day service. They are also double booking appointments.
- The Welcome Week activities held this year for the first time were a success.
- The “maroon money” that can be place on your campus card is only for purchases on campus. The transition to the campus card has been viewed positively.
- If students want to have alcohol at any organized campus activity they must apply at least 10 days in advance of the activity for approval to serve alcohol. The application process does not guarantee approval.
- The Alumni Campaign telethon has begun. There are 14 students of diverse backgrounds who are employed to carry out the campaign.
- Parking by the Mercantile building is always empty. The police chief is working on getting signs up at each stop to indicate the exact minute the bus will be at that stop.
- Changes to policy manual need to go through Student Affairs. If changes affects faculty, it must also go through faculty senate.
- There is a new catering guide. Michael Clifton is in charge of food services.
- The bookstore has made a big push to buy back used books. The used/new mix is about 50 – 50. Usually it is 30 – 70. Spring book orders are going out to faculty this week.

Next Executive Committee is Thursday, November 4, 2004 at 3:00 in Apache Board Room, CSC .

Next Faculty Senate is Thursday, November 11, 2004, at 3:00 in the Cheyenne Meeting room.

David Tucker
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

Stuart McClintock
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

