

MSU Faculty Senate

February Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 10 in the Cheyenne Meeting Room of the Clark Student Center. Senators present included: Arnoult, Sharon; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Comello, Robert; Cuevas, Jacqueline; Johnston, Chuck; Kilgore, Lon;; Lewandowski, Elizabeth; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); Roberts, Roe; Scales, Jon; Shao, Chris; Slavens, Dawn (Parliamentarian); Tucker, David (Chair);. Gary Lewis represented James Schuppener.

The following topics were discussed:

The agenda was approved. The January minutes had been approved by e-mail.

Current Business

1. Associate Provost Robert Clark addressed the Senate to present COPLAC, Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, an organization of twenty-one public universities across the country whose primary mission is a dedication to liberal arts education.

Dr. Rogers has expressed serious interest in joining this organization for a variety of reasons. At present, no university in Texas is a member of COPLAC. Membership in COPLAC might be tied to a request to the legislature to designate MSU as “The liberal arts university of TX”. As the only designated public liberal arts college in Texas, Midwestern would receive beneficial recognition. Such recognition could be used in marketing and recruiting. It might also protect the university from being incorporated into the state university system.

The council suggests guidelines for admission to this organization, most of which MSU meets. The central mission must be the promotion of a liberal arts education. A member university should have a free-standing identity and accreditation. It should of moderate size, around 5,000 FTE students. It has a four-year program leading to a baccalaureate degree. Half of its baccalaureate degrees awarded annually are in the arts and sciences field. The university should have a predominantly (85%) undergraduate enrollment. Member universities can also have professional schools.

The application procedure consists of two on-site visits, one before the formal application and one after. Dr. Rogers would like to begin the application process so that the university could become a member of this organization in fall 2006.

The Senate gave its support to Dr. Rogers’ interest in joining COPLAC.

Dr. Clark also gave spring enrollment numbers. 5957 students enrolled, which represents a slight drop from fall 2004 enrollment.

2. Dr. Clark also said that a proposal had been made to hood graduating master’s degree students at commencement and to have them precede bachelor’s degree students. Dr. Clark will report back to the president that the Senate supports the hooding proposal.

Dr. Clark also stated that a different speaker will address each of the two commencement exercises.

Senator Bultena said that a number of his colleagues had complained to him about having to attend two graduations. Senator Arnoult stated that it was difficult to attend two ceremonies when essay exams scheduled late in the week must be graded quickly to meet grade deadlines.

3. Chair Tucker and Senator Arnoult will be attending the Texas Council of Faculty Senates February 17-21 in Austin. Senator Lewandowski will also be present with TACT.

4. Chair Tucker will attend The Board of Regents meeting February 11. He solicited comments to be directed at the BOR. The Senate would like to thank the BOR for its support of the educational assistance policy and of tuition increases. The Senate would like to thank the BOR for its role in the swift progress being made on the new business building.

5. Chair Tucker also stated that Dr. Rogers would like to offer three to four percent salary increases again next year. He would also like to hire needed faculty in growing areas.

6. Senator Slavens reported that she is unable to attend committee meetings of the Student Affairs Council this semester due to a class scheduling challenge. Senator Lewandowski offered to take her place on the committee beginning with the March meeting.

Committee Reports

- A. Academic Council (Redmon): see addendum
- B. Administrative Council (David Tucker): no report
- C. Board of Regents (David Tucker): no report, meeting 2/11
- 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): no report
- H. Alumni Association Council (Chris Shao): no report
- I. Other Committees: none at this time

Financial Report

Available funds: \$300

Committee Reports:

Academic Council Report: Wednesday, February 16, 2005
Submitted by Robert Redmon

February 16, 2005: The Academic Council met at 2 pm.

The Provost announced that the Board of Regents has approved new employee search policy and that department chairs be trained in its implementation. The Provost also described her satisfaction with the Regents Professor program and its first implementation.

The Academic Council approved a recommendation forwarded by the graduate council to place masters degree recipients at the front of each graduating cohort and to reinstate the hooding ceremony for masters degree recipients. The Council also recommended that this be instituted at the May commencement.

The Academic Council approved a change to the Graduate Course Catalog, presented by Dr. Emerson Capps. (Change consists of substituting the word “may” for the word “will.”) Catalog page 28

A degree-seeking graduate student who has less than a 3.0 semester grade point average for two consecutive semesters **may** be dismissed. Additionally, each graduate program has the option of dismissing a student at any time due to failure to maintain a B average or failure to meet other standards established by the individual graduate programs.

The Academic Council also approved a change in the in the undergraduate course catalog, presented by Dr. Watson. The change adds the following to the requirements for a Major in Sociology:

All sociology majors must take a written comprehensive examination during their senior year. Please contact the Sociology Department office, O’Donohoe 122, to make testing arrangements.

Next Executive Committee is Thursday, March 3, 2005 in the Apache meeting room.
Next Faculty Senate is Thursday, March 10 in the Cheyenne Meeting room.

David Tucker
Chair

Stuart McClintock
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

