

# MSU Faculty Senate

## March Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2005 in the Cheyenne Meeting Room of the Clark Student Center. Senators present included: Arnoult, Sharon; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Coe, Mary Ann; Comello, Robert; Cuevas, Jacqueline; Curran, Barbara; Davids, Mark; Fields, Peter (for McClintock); Hansen, Chris; Johnston, Chuck; Kilgore, Lon; ; Montoya, Claudia; Redmon, Bob (Vice Chair); Roberts, Roe; Scales, Jon; Schuppener, James; Shao, Chris; Slavens, Dawn (Parliamentarian); Stiles, Beverly; Tucker, David (Chair);

Meeting called to order at 3:00 by Chairman Tucker.  
Agenda was unanimously approved.

Dr. Clark and Barb Merkle presented the Senate a briefing on the proposed changes to MSU admissions standards.

1. A copy of the proposed policy was distributed to each senator.
2. The new standards were developed by an ad hoc committee specifically charged to revise MSU standards.
3. If the proposal is approved by the Regents at the May meeting, the new standards will be implemented in Fall 2006.
4. Non-admitted students may appeal for conditional admittance through submission of a written essay that will be submitted and evaluated by an appeals committee.
5. Discussion resulted in the following additional information
  - The ad hoc committee can be called back into action to respond to the changing academic environment and to make changes to the policy if needed.
  - If the standards had been implemented this year, 32% of all incoming freshmen would not have been admitted.
6. Dr. Clark requested a vote affirming the Senate's support of the new admission standards.
7. Call for such vote – Roberts/Arnoult                      Unanimous approval
8. Additional commentary from Dr. Clark
  - 800 new freshman have already been admitted for fall '05.
  - Senators are requested to remind their faculty to complete the on-line IDEA survey.

Dr. Arnoult and Tucker provided an account of their attendance at the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting in Austin.

1. Each senator was provided a handout, and Dr. Arnoult provided narrative on the topics relevant to MSU
2. The TCFS representative from Angelo State mentioned his university was considering a fall break to improve student retention.

3. The TCFS discussed academic freedom.
4. Reorganization of THECB : MSU is now under the Academic Excellence and Research division not the Universities and Health-Related Institutions division.
5. The TCFS was informed by the THECB of subjects currently under discussion at the legislature: possible changes to the top 10% rule; limitations to the total number of hours a student may take without financial penalty (which would include courses dropped after the first week); and overall funding concerns.

#### Committee Reports

1. Administrative Council – Dr. Tucker briefed the Senate on the meeting.
2. Regents – Dr. Tucker provided an overview of the notable actions of the most recent BOR meeting.
  - Two Regents Professors, Dr. Ken Hendrickson and Dr. Mike Collins, were chosen.
  - Faculty developmental leaves were awarded to Jim Hoggard and Dr. Magaly Rincon-Zachary.
  - There will be a special meeting in approximately two weeks regarding the Student Activity Center.
3. Academic Council – No report
4. Enrollment Management – Dr. Stiles distributed the minutes of the meeting and provided an explanation of the “threepeat” policy proposed.
5. Intercollegiate – No report
6. Alumni – No report
7. Student Affairs – No report
8. Treasurer – Dr. Bultena distributed an itemized budget summary. A request for \$500 has been submitted to the president’s office. Currently the account is -\$440.

#### Old/New Business

1. Dr. Tucker requested senators to remind their Deans that as senator terms come to an end, there is a need for each college to hold elections for positions on the Senate for this coming year.
2. Dr. Tucker also alerted senators to the upcoming standing committee membership assignment process
3. A defined and important issue for consideration this coming year is departmental chairship. It is a growing concern, and the subject of the additional responsibilities and duties required of chairs. was brought to the Senate.
- 4.

Motion to Adjourn – Redmon/Comello

Unanimous approval 4:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lon Kilgore  
Acting Secretary of the Faculty Senate

David Tucker  
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at 3 PM on April 7 in the Apache Boardroom in CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on April 14 in Cheyenne Meeting Room in CSC