

MSU Faculty Senate

September Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on September 15, 2005 in the Cheyenne Meeting Room in the Clark Student Center. Senators present included Arnoult, Sharon; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Coe, Mary Ann; Comello, Robert; Davids, Mark; Davis, Fred; Guthrie, Paul; Johnson, Tina; Johnston, Chuck; Kaciuba, Gail; Kilgore, Lon; Lewandowski, Elizabeth; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); McNeely, Tom; Redmon, Bob (Vice Chair); Rhoads, Jon; Scales, Jon; Stiles, Beverly (Parliamentarian); Tucker, David (Chair). Cory Pack represented Melissa Marty.

Agenda was unanimously approved.

August minutes had previously been approved by e-mail. Chairman Tucker added, however, that the Board of Regents report should include that the BOR approved the Academic Dishonesty Policy for the student handbook. Further, Section 3 of the August 17 Academic Council Report should read Ron Fischli instead of Mike Shipley.

Current Business:

1. Writing Proficiency Exam Requirement: Senator McNeely reported on his and Senator Coe's research into the Writing Proficiency Exam requirement. He found that the exam satisfies neither a state nor an accreditation requirement. It was instituted around 1986 as a university requirement. Senator McNeely wondered if other means could be implemented that would ensure students' writing proficiency. Discussion followed in which McNeely discussed the pros and cons of a curriculum-wide writing requirement, and Senator Arnoult brought up the UT Austin example in which a certain number of classes must be taken that are writing intensive. Senator Redmon talked about requiring a senior paper. Senator Lewandowski stated that a writing component is not appropriate for some courses, such as for those in the fine arts. The Senate will not pursue any further action about this subject for the time being.

In a related issue, the subject again came up regarding the difficulties some distance-education students are having taking the Writing Proficiency Exam or taking the required course that a student takes if he/she fails the exam. Senator Coe will talk to the Provost about facilitating ways students can meet the Writing Proficiency Exam requirement.

2. Tenure and Promotion Clarification Committee: Members of the Senate on this ad hoc committee reported the committee had finished its deliberations and is making recommendations that address the following subjects, among others:

- A. Somebody from a "higher" level in the Tenure and Promotion committee hierarchy interfering with a "lower" committee's deliberations or recommendations.
- B. The appeals process
- C. Additions to a candidate's packet or changes in the narrative after initial submission.

3. Constitution Day: There is still some confusion about how Constitution Day is to be commemorated on campus. The law states that any university with Title IV funding must do something on Constitution Day to increase knowledge about the United States Constitution. Many in Liberal Arts are under the impression that each professor is required to do something in his/her class and to report what he/she did to the dean. Others think the plans the university has already made cover the requirement. Senator Lewandowski made the following motion that was called to question by Senator Arnoult and seconded by Senator Kilgore. The Senate unanimously approved it.

"The Faculty Senate requests that the Provost clarify in a timely manner the expectations of the campus as a whole and of the faculty specifically regarding Constitution Day and invites her to present the expectations at an upcoming meeting of the Senate."

4. American Democracy Project: Senators Stiles and Lewandowski are on the committee to determine whether MSU should adopt the American Democracy Project. Adoption would mean integrating service learning into the curriculum. Vice-Chairman Redmon pointed out that this program would be another important way the university can serve the community. In her capacity as a representative for faculty interests, Senator Arnoult wanted to caution against implementing the requirement of service learning in such a way as to be burdensome to faculty. Chairman Tucker requested that Senators Stiles and Lewandowski give a report next Senate meeting.

Committee Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Tucker): See attached report
2. Board of Regents (Tucker): no meeting
3. Academic Council (Redmon): (no report)
4. Enrollment Management (Stiles): See attached report
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council : (no report)
6. Alumni Association Council: (no report)
7. Student Affairs(Lewandowski): (no report)
8. Other active committees: none
9. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has sixty dollars. Secretary Bultena will ask the President for \$2,000 for TCFS dues and for funds to support two senators to attend each of the two TCFS meetings this academic year.

Closing Items

1. Old Business:

A. ORP and insurance for new faculty: Dr. Rogers is committed to trying to do something about raising the percent of the university's ORP contribution for professors hired after 1995 to that of professors hired before that year. He is also committed to doing something about helping out new faculty whose insurance does not go into effect until they have worked for the state for a full three months.

2. New Business:

A. Catalogue change: Vice-Chairman Redmon stated that the program requirements and course descriptions will be together in the new catalogue. Senator Kaciuba said that the Graduate Council is making a motion to do the same for the graduate catalogue.

3. Announcements:

A. Senator Lewandowski informed the Senate that TACT is sponsoring a tenure and promotion workshop on September 22 at three in CSC.

B. The TCFS will meet October 21-22 in Austin. Chairman Tucker and Senator Arnoult will attend as Senate representatives, and Senator Lewandowski will attend as president of TACT. Others may attend as well.

After soliciting further comment, Chairman Tucker entertained a motion to close the meeting. Senator Arnoult moved to adjourn with a second by Senator Kilgore.

Addenda:

1. Administrative Council Meeting August 29, 2005

9/15/04

The Administrative Council met on Monday August 29, 2005. The following topics and actions were considered at the meeting:

- Dr. Farrell brought up the problem of parking, given that the construction of the new COBA building has put one of the major parking lots out of service. It was reported that the construction is far enough along that two rows on the north end of the parking lot can now be used by students. Dr. Farrell's concern, in particular, was that there is enough reserved parking for employees, and that students living on campus have a place to park.
- Dr. Farrell brought up the topic of solicitation of grants by individual faculty members. Due to the need to coordinate all requests so that each potential donor is approached only one time, faculty should inform the grants office before making any direct request of a donor.
- Dr. Rogers has appointed a committee to set up a standard "Maroon" color for the official school colors, so that more consistency can be achieved whenever forms, clothing, uniforms, or whatever are ordered in the school colors.
- Dr. Farrell proposed a new policy regarding the management and administration of a public access defibrillation program at Midwestern State University. The council approved the policy to be submitted to the Board of Regents at their next meeting.
- The council approved key requests for new employees

Respectfully submitted,

David Tucker
Faculty Senate Chair

2. Enrollment Management Council Minutes

From: Beverly Stiles

1. Permanent dismissal status: Barbara Merkle presented the following proposal.

Proposal:

Students who are on their third academic dismissal from Midwestern State University will be assessed a permanent dismissal status. A student on permanent dismissal can only be reinstated through the Readmissions Committee. The status will be reflected on their grade sheet and MSU transcript. Students on permanent dismissal can only petition the committee for reinstatement one time. ***If reinstatement is denied by the committee, the student may appeal the committee's decision to the Associate Provost.***

2. 45-hr rule: Dr. Robert Clark
3. Three-peat: Dr. Robert Clark

During the March 8, 2005, Enrollment Management Council meeting, a proposal was approved to assess charges for the three-peat rule and the 45-hour rule. This proposal went to Administrative Council, but the president did not want to pursue it at that point. However, during the most recent budget discussions, the business office provided information that over \$215,000 were lost in state appropriations during the last base period due to these non-funded items. Because of the lost funding, collecting these fees was recently discussed during a vice presidents' meeting.

Since the Texas Legislature recently changed the 45-hour rule to 30 hours, an amendment to the proposal is necessary to reflect that change. There is an ongoing discussion with the Coordinating Board regarding how the 45-hour rule will be changed to the 30-hour rule. The current understanding is that if the 30-hour rule stands, collecting fees under that rule will go into effect in the fall of 2006. Until then, collection of fees for excessive semester hours will continue under the 45-hour rule and three-peat rule.

These issues will be taken to the Board of Regents in November. It is anticipated that Midwestern State University will begin collecting these fees in fall 2006 in order to give students some advance notice of the changes and to address some logistical information technology issues regarding timely assessment of the fees during the enrollment process.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart McClintock
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

David Tucker
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday October 6 in the Apache Boardroom in CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday October 13 in Cheyenne Meeting Room in CSC.