

MSU Faculty Senate February 2007 Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on February 8, 2007, in the Cheyenne Room of the CSC. Senators present included: Coe, Mary Ann; Comello, Robert; Davis, Fred; Donovan, Tim; Garrison, Steve; Guthrie, Paul; Johnson, Tina; Kilgore, Lon; Lewandowski, Elizabeth; Lunce, Stephen; May, Marsha; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); McNeely, Tom (Parliamentarian); Owen, James; Paddack, Ted. Randall Hallford represented Rodney Cate.

Because both Chairman Redmon and Vice-Chair Stiles were absent, Secretary McClintock called the meeting to order at 3 pm. By acclamation the Senate made Parliamentarian McNeely chair *pro tem*.

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

Current Business:

1. Safety and foot traffic on campus. Senator Donovan thought the Senate should consider safety issues relating to driving and foot traffic on campus. University law states that pedestrians have the right-of-way on campus. Donovan stated that the use of cell phones on campus has made people less attentive when crossing streets. He suggested that Senators poll their constituents to see if they think the present right-of-way law needs to be addressed. Further, senators will see if constituents have other traffic safety issues on campus that they feel need to be considered.
2. Standing committee review. The Provost would like the Senate to examine the present list of university committees to determine which should be retained, removed, or combined. Chair *pro tem* McNeely asked for volunteers to serve on an ad hoc committee to address this issue. Senators Lewandowski, May, and Coe volunteered to serve on this committee, and they will report back at the March meeting.
3. Spring break '08. Senator Johnson was approached by a colleague about an issue regarding the spring break holiday for '08. Easter falls on the last Sunday of spring break in that year, and the following Monday and Tuesday are the Easter holidays. Under this scenario, because Martin Luther King Day is also on a Monday, Monday-Wednesday classes will meet fewer times than Tuesday-Thursday classes. Senator Johnson wondered if the Thursday and Friday before spring break could be the Easter break so that Tuesday-Thursday classes would also lose a day, and Monday-Wednesday and the Tuesday-Thursday schedules would then balance out. Because the schedule for '08 is already set, the Senate decided to take no action regarding this issue.

Committee and Other Reports

1. Administrative Council: no report

2. Board of Regents: no report
3. Academic Council:
4. Enrollment Management Council: no report
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Comello): attached to the end of the minutes
6. Alumni Association Council: no report
7. Student Affairs Council (Lewandowski): Senator Lewandowski had taken the Senate's earlier request to Student Affairs Council about limiting the number of weekend events that faculty are either requested or required to attend. Because different committees and offices plan these events, it became clear to Senator Lewandowski that there is no master calendar published before the academic year begins that lists all of these events across the campus. Senator Kilgore motioned for the Senate to recommend to the President to assemble by August of the upcoming year a master list of events requiring or requesting faculty participation with dates of these events. Senator Lunce seconded the motion, and it passed.
Student Affairs Council minutes are at the end of these minutes.
8. Other active committees: no reports
- 9: Financial report: The Faculty Senate has \$1,818.

Closing Items:

New Business:

1. Senator Lewandowski will be driving to Austin on Wednesday February 14 as TACT representative to speak with state legislators. Because the Texas Council of Faculty Senates convention is happening simultaneously with TACT's work, any Senate member who would like to attend the convention can drive down with Elizabeth.
2. The Senate would like to get some information about security background checks that are carried out on potential new faculty members. To that end, Senator Kilgore motioned for the Senate to ask the President to explain the rationale for developing security background checks on potential faculty members beyond the current statute. Senator Garrison seconded the motion, and it passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Intercollegiate Athletic Council Report

The IAC held a meeting on January 18, 2007.

Dr. Rogers briefly addressed the council. Some points of interest in Dr. Rogers' address were:

- ❖ Athletic grades for the fall appear to be most favorable. He hopes this will continue into the spring semester.

- ❖ The new softball field is under construction. This was started earlier than expected because MSU was not granted continued use of the current softball complex.
- ❖ Dr. Rogers would like to see the addition of more sports programs. Specific sports were not mentioned.
- ❖ The interim Athletic Director is working out and benefiting MSU athletics already in his short tenure. Dr. Rogers did address the need to do a search to permanently fill the Athletic Director position.

Dr. Rogers left the meeting at this time. The next item to be discussed was end of season evaluations. The majority of the evaluations were favorable. Not all of the fall sports have been completed but will be done so shortly.

Dr. Paul Guthrie, Faculty Representative, was in attendance at the NCAA meeting prior to the beginning of the spring semester. Dr. Guthrie gave the members of the IAC a brief summary of the events. Dr. Guthrie showed the committee a DVD produced by the NCAA that focuses on Division II schools. The DVD shows the positive aspects of enrolling in a Division II school. The members of the IAC will be afforded a chance to review the DVD. Dr. Guthrie along with Keith Lamb reviewed a set of evaluations that MSU may wish to adopt. The NCAA has three different evaluations that address students with the following criteria.

Graduating Student Athlete

Early Outgoing – leaving the university but not graduating

Continuing Student Athlete

The members of the IAC were asked to review these evaluations for discussion at the next meeting.

At this point the meeting was adjourned. next meeting of the IAC will be February 12 at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Comello

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart McClintock
Secretary for the Faculty Senate

Bob Redmon
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

The next Executive Committee meeting will be Thursday, March 1, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. in the Caddo Room, CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Thursday, March 8, 2007, in the Cheyenne Meeting Room, CSC.