

## **MSU Faculty Senate January 2007 Minutes**

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on January 11, 2007, in the Cheyenne Room of the CSC. Senators present included: Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Cate, Rodney; Coe, Mary Ann; Comello, Robert; Davis, Fred; Donovan, Tim; Garrison, Steve; Goldberg, Gary; Guthrie, Paul; Johnson, Tina; Lunce, Stephen; May, Marsha; McNeely, Tom (Parliamentarian); Owen, James; Redmon, Bob (Chair); Rincon-Zachary, Magaly; Stiles, Beverly (Vice-Chair); Watts, Lynette. Parliamentarian McNeely recorded minutes due to Secretary McClintock's absence. Randy Pruitt represented Jim Gorham.

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

*Current Business:*

### **1. Summer Schedule Options**

*Background:* The Senate had been asked to recommend one of two possible scenarios for the Summer 2008 schedule. Scenario #1 would provide 2-hour classes for *four* days per week with finals on August 14, just four days before the August 18 faculty/staff meeting for the 2008-2009 academic year. Scenario #2 would provide 2-hour classes for *five* days per week with finals on August 5, allowing for a longer break before the beginning of the Fall 2008 term. (In both scenarios, Summer 2008 classes begin June 9.) Senators were asked at the December meeting to poll their colleges to find out the faculty's preference.

Chair Redmon asked for the results of the college surveys. The results were mixed. In the surveys, faculty had raised concerns about two-hour class periods, insufficient time for homework, and whether MSU's schedule should be tied to the local ISD schedule.

Senator Lunce moved that the Senate report to the administration a very strong mix of opinions and that faculty wanted the 4-day week for pedagogical purposes *and* a longer break between summer and fall. Senator Owen seconded. In the discussion that followed, it was determined that both results would be possible if the Fall 2008 schedule were delayed by one week. With this new suggestion, the current motion failed.

Senator McNeely then moved that the senate recommend Scenario #1 with the addition of the Fall 2008 semester being delayed one week. Senator May seconded. The motion carried.

Senator Bultena moved that the recommendation be amended to specify the dates for the Fall 2008 term: that the first day of classes be August 30 with commencement on December 20, 2008. Senator Goldberg seconded. The motion carried.

Thus, the final recommendation of the Faculty Senate is as follows: The Faculty Senate recommends that the Summer 2008 schedule follow a four-day class week and that in Fall 2008, classes should begin on August 30 with commencement on December 20, 2008.

## **2. Committee Appointments**

Chair Redmon circulated a list of the faculty committee appointments that are made by the Faculty Senate, indicating which currently-serving members wish to return to those committees next year. To fill the open seats, Chair Redmon asked that Senators return to their colleges and discover which faculty might be interested in filling those positions, paying particular attention to recruiting newer faculty members. Chair Redmon agreed to send email to Senators to encourage recommendations. Chair Redmon must report the recommendations by January 31.

### *Committee and Other Reports*

1. Administrative Council: no report
2. Board of Regents: no report
3. Academic Council: to be emailed and attached to these or subsequent minutes
4. Enrollment Management Council: no report
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council: no report
6. Alumni Association Council: no report
7. Student Affairs Council: no report
8. Other active committees: no reports
9. Financial report: The Faculty Senate has \$1,818.

### *Closing Items*

There was no old business, new business, or announcements. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McNeely  
Acting as Secretary for the Faculty Senate

Bob Redmon  
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

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

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