

# MSU Faculty Senate

## November 2007 Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on November 8, 2007 in Dillard 189. Senators present included Black, Alan; Bultena, Chuck; Coe, Mary Ann; Donovan, Tim; Dover, Ernest (Parliamentarian); Fields, Peter; Giddings, Greg; Goldberg, Gary; Gooch, Roxanne; Gorham, Jim; Hallford, Randal; Harlow, Kirk; Kilgore, Lon; May, Marsha (Treasurer); McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); Medford, Ann; Owen, James; Redmon, Bob (Chair); Rincon-Zachary, Magaly; Scmitter, Joel; Watts, Lynette.

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

### *Current Business:*

1. University Librarian Clara Latham updated the Senate on Moffett's recent additions and programs. She spoke about the following topics:

-She would like everyone to take part in the LibQual survey in order to improve library services. About 300 surveys have so far been completed. She would like to have 600 responses by closing period of November 16, 2007.

-Faculty Partner Initiative. She stated that each librarian is assigned to a college to act as a link between the faculty and the library in order to offer library instruction or any other assistance. College Connections also emphasize the library's services.

-There are some new data bases. The Campus Research data base lists legal and business information. Proquest Criminal Justice Index serves criminal justice issues.

-The electronic book collection is growing by leaps and bounds and currently has with 54,000+ titles.

-The media center now has 1500 DVD's in addition to VHS tapes, computer software, music CD's, and LP's. It also has laptops, cameras, camcorders, and digital projectors for students to check out.

-Each department of the university has an allocation for library purchases. If the department does not use its allocated sum, it goes into a general pool that the collections librarian uses for purchases.

-If a professor wants to subscribe to a journal, his/her department pays for the subscription for the first year. The library picks up the cost of the subscription after the first year.

-After getting feedback from professors about journals no longer wanted, the library has culled its subscription list and saved \$40,000.

Chair Redmon asked if it was possible to enter the media center to look at items on the shelves. The librarian stated that most universities keep that room closed to prevent theft. She did say that one can enter the media center if accompanied by the media librarian.

2. Plagiarism. Senator Giddings stated that plagiarism was rampant on campus. He thinks that many professors do not report plagiarism because the process is too arduous.

Chair Redmon said that the process was only onerous if the student appeals his/her sanction. Otherwise, the professor only has to determine the punishment and report it to his/her chair. According to the Chair, student appeals appear to be very rare.

Other Senators voiced concern that their sanctions were questioned by higher ups and were therefore reluctant to report infractions.

Senator Giddings also thought that each infraction should be reported to the Dean of Students in order to catch repeat offenders. Secretary McClintock made a motion to request that the Provost amend the plagiarism policy so that the dean of students and the department chair receive initial notification of sanctions against a student. Giddings seconded the motion. In discussion of the motion, most Senators thought this would create more bureaucracy than it was worth.

The motion did not pass.

3. Faculty Work Load Policy. The Faculty Senate examined a draft of the new Faculty Work Load Policy. Senator Medford motioned for the Senate to support the adoption of the draft of this new policy. Senator Owen seconded the motion.

Senator Harlow stated that Health Administration may be effected negatively as the policy stands. He will consult with his dean about the draft.

Senator Rincon-Zachary thought the compensation for directing seven theses was far too little considering the time and effort that directing a thesis in her field takes. She emphasized that directing theses leaves no time for one's own research that is required for tenure and promotion. Rather than financial compensation for thesis direction, she thinks release time should be given so that professors can pursue research that is hard to do when directing theses. Senators agreed wholeheartedly with all of these statements.

Senator Kilgore noted that the proposed policy gives coaches no load credit for varsity practice. Because coaches must teach a specified number of activity courses, the new policy would require more activity course sections than warranted by student demand in order for coaches to meet required teaching loads.

The motion did not pass.

#### Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Redmon): (no report)
2. Board of Regents (Redmon): (no report because the summary of the meeting was already e-mailed to the entire campus.)
3. Academic Council (Stiles): (no report)
4. Enrollment Management (May): (see end of minutes)
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Comello): (no report)
6. Alumni Association Council (Watts): (no report)
7. Student Affairs (Coe): (see end of minutes)
8. Other active committees: none
9. Financial report (May): The Faculty Senate has \$ 1,715.

*Closing Items:*

*Old Business:*

*New Business:*

The Senate adjourned at 4:45

*Committee Reports:*

**Enrollment Management Council**

The Enrollment Management Council met on November 6, 2007.

Barbara Merkle proposed withdrawing the policy that requires twelve quality hours at MSU for suspension regulations to apply. Quality hours are those hours used to compute the MSU grade point average. Current policy does not allow academic suspension until the student has twelve quality hours at MSU. Students performing below academic standards are put on continued probation until they accumulate twelve quality hours at MSU. Implementing Banner is a good time to review policy changes that were difficult under the SIS-PLUS system. Other universities in Texas do not require the twelve hours before their suspension policies are put in place. This change would support retention programs such as First Year Probation and early notification of probation-suspension status by MSU Admissions. This proposal was approved by the Council.

Darla English proposed changing policy for honor roll calculations. Currently only one physical activity or the marching band course can count in the twelve hours for honor roll calculations and no developmental courses can count. She proposed that a student who completes a semester with at least 12 hours will be on the President's Honor Roll with a GPA of 4.0, on the Provost's Honor Roll with a GPA of 3.75 to 3.99 and no grade lower than a C and on the Dean's Honor Roll with a GPA of 3.50 to 3.74 and no grade lower than a C. The student cannot have semester grades of I, WF or NC. Current policy is not compatible with Banner and other universities that do have developmental courses counting in the GPA calculate Honor Rolls based on X number of hours in a term with a designated GPA. This proposal was also approved by the Council.

Submitted by Marsha May  
Faculty Senate Representative

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart McClintock  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Bob Redmon  
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at 3 PM on November 29, 2007, in the Apache Boardroom in CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on December 6, 2007, in Kiowa Ex-Students Dining Room in CSC.

