

MSU Faculty Senate Minutes

April 2009

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on April 2, 2009, in Dillard 189. Senators present included Brink, Jan; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Fields, Peter; Giddings, Greg; Harlow, Kirk; Hiraide, Suguru; Knox, Michelle; Lewis, Gary; Masuoka, Jim; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); Medford, Ann (Chair); Morrison, Gary; Owen, James (Vice-Chair); Redmon, Bob; Schmitter, Joel; Zhang, Grace.

Also present were Clara Latham, University Librarian; Andrea Williams, Associate University Librarian for Public Services; Ron Fischli, Dean of the Fain College of Fine Arts; Randy Pruitt, assistant professor and advisor for The Wichitan; Chris Collins, writer for The Wichitan.

The agenda was unanimously approved. The minutes of the March meeting and the March Special Meeting had previously been approved by e-mail.

Current Business:

1. Provost Wiedemann and President Rogers addressed the Senate. Dr. Wiedemann read a prepared statement to the Faculty Senate. She announced that she had been removed from her position as provost as of August 31, 2009, and would become part of the foreign language faculty. She listed accomplishments at the university over her seven-year career about which she was particularly proud (improvements in faculty pay, teaching conditions, program quality, and governance and instituting university grants, developmental leave, the Center for Teaching and Learning Resources, and the beginning of a real sponsored programs office). She stated that she was always motivated by quality, which sometimes led to her choosing to do the right things over doing things right. She regretted any communication problems and wished that they had been able to be worked out. She said that she had served American higher education for forty-three years with dedication, high quality, integrity, and love.

Dr. Rogers said that he had enjoyed working with Dr. Wiedemann, commended her for her hard work on behalf of the university and stated that Midwestern was a much improved institution because of it.

2. University book store. In an effort to save students from spending money unnecessarily, Jenny Duncan, manager of the bookstore, asked professors to differentiate between recommended books and required books on their syllabi, if at all possible.

3. Director of Admissions Barb Merkle and admissions standards. The state has increased high school graduation requirements to four units each of English, math, and science. In order to comply with this requirement, MSU admission guidelines will state: "Prospective students must complete a high school curriculum that is equivalent in content and rigor to the curriculum requirements established for the recommended or advanced high school program."

Ms. Merkle also announced that the priority application date for freshmen interested in fall admission will move up from July 1 to March 1 in 2010.

4. Emeritus status for Assistant Professor of English Dana Barnett. Senator Fields lauded Dana Barnett's distinguished career, her ability as a teacher, and her many contributions to the university. The Faculty Senate unanimously recommended that she be awarded emeritus status upon her retirement.

5. Committee recommendations. Chair Medford stated that she had filled most committee positions that the Senate is responsible for filling. She still needs two faculty members to fill openings on the Artist Lecture Committee and a single faculty member for the Student Allocations Committee. If a faculty member is interested in serving on either of these committees, he or she should contact Chair Medford.

6. Policies 2.333 and 3.146. The Faculty Senate considered two policies that have been modified. Senator Lewis made a motion to change the wording in Policy 2.333 dealing with academic department chairs in Section 1 "Appointment" from the underlined " Department chairs work on a standard faculty contract but may be given load credit of up to three (3) hours per semester for administrative duties. " to "will be given load credit of a minimum of three (3)hours". Senator Fields seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Policy 3.146 deals with the Human Subjects Review Committee. Senator Redmon has chaired this committee and stated that the policy revision improves weaknesses in the the previous policy because it has added the facility of full review, has reduced redundancy, and has corrected spelling errors.

Senator Redmon moved to endorse the HSRC policy and to recommend the committee name be changed to the Institutional Review Board to be in alignment with this committee's name at most universities. Senator Owen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Medford): (no report)
2. Board of Regents (Medford): (no report)
3. Academic Council (Owen): (no report)
4. Enrollment Management (Masuoka): (no report)
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Black): (no report)
6. Student Affairs (Medford): (no report)
7. Other active committees: Core Curriculum (Redmon). Senator Redmon stated that the work of the Core Curriculum Committee is ongoing, and he asked all faculty members to get involved with the revision of the core by sharing ideas with members of this committee. Senator Giddings thought the core should lean to the liberal arts to coincide with the university's mission and its membership in COPLAC.
8. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$ 1,732.

Closing Items:

Old Business:

1. Evaluations. Senator Harlow reported that his department (Health and Public Administration) will do paper and pencil evaluations this term. The dean of Health Sciences and Human Services will pay for the scanning machine and supplies.

2. Secretary McClintock reported that he had sent the Faculty Senate's resolution opposing House Bill 1893 and Senate Bill 1164 (concealed weapons bills) to the bills' authors, the chair of the State Senate, and to our three local legislators (Estes, Farrabee, Hardcastle). Senator Morrison suggested sending the resolution to TACT and to the chair of the Higher Education Department, which Secretary McClintock will do.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart McClintock
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Ann Medford
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at 3 PM on April 30, 2009 in the Apache Boardroom in CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, May 7, 2009, in Kiowa Ex-Students Dining Room in CSC.