

MSU Faculty Senate

January 2009 Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on, January 15, 2009, in Dillard 189. Senators present included Black, Alan; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Carlston, David; Crump, Martha; Debois, Barbara; Dover, Ernie (Parliamentarian); Giddings, Greg; Harlow, Kirk; Hiraide, Suguru; Knox, Michelle; Lewis, Gary; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); Medford, Ann (Chair); Morrison, Gary; Owen, James (Vice-Chair); Schmitter, Joel; Wyatt, Frank; Zhang, Grace.

Jim Masuoka from the College of Science and Mathematics will replace Dana Mills this semester because Senator Mills has a scheduling conflict.

Mary Ann Coe represented Matthew Capps from the College of Education. Pam Morgan from the Staff Senate attended the meeting.

The agenda was unanimously approved. The minutes of the December 2008 meeting had previously been approved by e-mail.

Current Business:

1. Chair Medford informed the Senate that the next meeting would be on February 5, 2009, so that Dr. Rogers can address the Faculty Senate.

2. Student Evaluations. Dr. Rogers has charged Dr. Wiedemann with forming a committee to review the evaluation process, to consider other factors besides student evaluations that might be included in evaluating professors' performance, and to create an evaluation tool for on-line courses.

The committee will be comprised of at least one dean and several professors.

3. Pick-A-Prof. As of the spring 2008 semester, all student evaluations are being sent to the professor rating firm Pick-A-Prof where they will be listed on line. This company has the right to request this information because of a freedom of information act. At the Executive Committee meeting on January 14, Dr. Wiedemann said the the university was legally obligated to comply with this request.

Senator Bultena was concerned that posting this information publicly may infringe upon student-teacher confidentiality in some cases. He also stated that students who look at this site will not see evaluations that are representative of courses or professors because the response rate of electronic evaluations is low and do not accurately reflect the quality of a class or a professor. Senator Harlow asked if students' confidentiality was being compromised because they had not been told that their comments were to be made public. He further wondered who owned the data collected. He suggested that the evaluation form contain an explanation that information on the evaluations would enter the public domain.

4. Professors taking courses: In response to the Faculty Senate's motion at its December meeting, Dr. Rogers will reimburse professors who take a course on campus. Rather than making

an official policy, he would prefer that professors who wish to take a course contact Dr. Wiedemann. Reimbursement will come from professional improvement funds.

5. Survey of Faculty Satisfaction. As a result of discussions with other professors, Senator Carlston wondered if the Senate thought it a good idea to initiate some sort of survey of faculty satisfaction. Senator Bultena stated that employee satisfaction surveys were common in most organizations.

Senator Carlston made the motion for the Faculty Senate to form a subcommittee to make a recommendation about creating a survey of faculty satisfaction. Vice-Chair Owen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Senators Carlston, Wyatt, and Knox volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

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 (Mills): (no report)
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Black): (no report)
6. Student Affairs (Medford): (no report)
7. Other active committees: none
8. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$483.

Closing Items:

1. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:00.

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 Thursday, January 29, 2009, in the Apache Boardroom in CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, February 5, 2009, in Kiowa Ex-Students Dining Room in CSC.

