

MSU Faculty Senate

September 2009 Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on September 10, 2009, in the Kiowa Ex-Students Dining Room in the CSC. Senators present included Brink, Jan; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Capps, Matthew; Carlston, David (Parliamentarian); Crump, Martha; Debois, Barbara; Elliot, Brent; Fidelie, Laura; Fields, Peter; Green, Becky; Hiraide, Suguru; Knox, Michelle; LaBeff, Emily; Lewis, Gary; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); Morrison, Gary; Owen, James (Vice-Chair); Patin, Roy; Shao, Jiangao; Schmitter, Joel; Schulz, Ed; Williamson, Anne-Marie. Randy Pruitt represented Jim Gorham.

Vice-Chair Owen presided over the meeting due to Chair Medford's absence. The minutes of the August meeting had previously been approved by e-mail.

Current Business:

1. Faculty Athletic Representative Report. Paul Guthrie updated the Faculty Senate about issues related to student-athletes. He mentioned that student-athletes currently major in forty disciplines. He also gave GPAs, graduation rates, and missed days for student-athletes based on sport. Alarmed by the large number of missed days by student-athletes in some sports, Guthrie would like the Intercollegiate Athletics Council to review and comment on schedules as they are developed. He also listed the significant number of student-athletes who have received academic recognition. He reported that coaches encourage their student-athletes to maintain good communication with their professors. Guthrie also said that professors can contact him or coaches if a problem develops with a student-athlete.
2. Two members from the Faculty Senate serve on the Regent's Professor Committee, one of whom is the Chair. Emily LaBeff nominated Secretary McClintock as the second member, and he was elected.
3. Provost Report to the Executive Committee. Provost Russell Long discussed several pending issues with the Faculty Senate's Executive Committee on September 3.
 - i. He stated that a hard look is being given to increasing admissions standards.
 - ii. He also said that the Core Curriculum Committee would be reduced to nine members because of the difficulty in getting a larger group together. He also stated that the core would probably have forty-eight hours instead of the forty-five hours that had been targeted earlier.
 - iii. Because of low return rates on teacher evaluations and evaluations' importance for tenure and promotion, Dr. Long would like to institute paper evaluations done in class. Each college will have a scanner to tabulate the evaluations.
 - iv. The Provost also emphasized the necessity to comply with Bill 2504 in 2010. His idea is that the required information (syllabus, overall lesson plan, and professor's CV) will be listed on line with the specific course. Course evaluations for the previous semester are also to be listed, but

Dr. Long is looking into proposing other possibilities such as an average over a certain amount of time. Each department will also have to list its budget.

4. Piper and Faculty Award Update. To reduce paper waste, the Faculty Senate will carry out an on-line election this year for the Faculty Award. The Faculty Senate will chose the university's nominee for the Piper Award as soon as each nominee has sent his/her CV for Senators' consideration.

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 (Green): (see end of minutes)
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Gorham): (no report)
6. Student Affairs (Medford): (no report)
7. Sustainability (McClintock): Secretary McClintock listed recycling sites on campus and in town. On campus, white paper is collected in computer labs, the library, and in some faculty workrooms, e.g., English. Newspaper can be placed in the large green bin in a fenced off area just north of the library, in the library's loading dock. There is some newspaper recycling in Clark in garbage cans. Thick cardboard can be placed in the red fenced area attached to north side of library. A new compacting machine deals with that cardboard as well as with that from the bookstore and dining services. The student organization ASME does can recycling in classroom buildings in tan receptacles marked with its name. Off campus, one can recycle plastic bottles and aluminum cans at Wal-Mart, glass bottles and newspaper at United Market Street on Kell and United on Old Iowa Park Road, cans and metal at Bell Processing on Burkburnett Road, and newspaper at all fire stations.
8. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$1,205.

Announcements: There are funds to support a few Senators who are interested in attending the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting in Austin on October 23-24. Senators should speak with Chair Medford, who will be attending.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45.

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, October 1, 2009, in the Apache Board Room of CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, October 8, 2009, in Bridwell Hall room 109.

Report from the Enrollment Management Council Meeting

September 8, 2009

I. Proposed 2010-2012 Academic Calendar—Ms. Jamie Wilson (for Ms. Darla English)

Ms. Wilson took council members through the proposed two-year academic calendar. Questions were raised about old business: possibly changing application deadlines and shortening the final exam schedule from five to four days. These items will be discussed by the Academic Council.

II. Notification of Writing Proficiency Results—Ms. Kristen Garrison

Ms. Garrison, Writing Proficiency Coordinator, explained that students are told how to access their exam results when they take the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE). Four to six weeks after completing the exam, students can check their transcript via Web World. If they find a WPE hold, then they know they have failed the exam. The Writing Proficiency office has recently updated their website where students can find a link to check their transcripts. Ms. Garrison wants her office to “go green” and yet make information about exam results accessible to students. She asked the council for suggestions.

Dr. Clark stressed that students must be told in several ways how to check their exam results. Council members suggested check-the-web business cards, reminders on the events calendar, signs posted on campus bulletin boards, and postmaster student e-mails.

Ms. Garrison explained that each student with 60-89 credit hours is sent a letter informing him or her of the need to take the exam. A different letter is sent to each student with more than 90 credit hours. Letters are sent after the 20th day of classes, after 12th day voids have been resolved.

Discussion brought out that the semester timing of the exam is problematic. Students who pre-register for classes do not get WPE results until the end of the semester, so those who fail the exam must change their schedules. In addition, council members reported that students with more than ninety hours who fail the exam are frequently frustrated by attempts to enroll in full sections of English 2113.

Dr. Clark asked Ms. Garrison to check her program’s timeline:

- Can the WPE be offered earlier during a semester?
- Can the exams be graded more quickly so that students have time to make class schedule changes before final exams?

In the past WPE information was sent to college deans with the understanding that they would pass it to department heads who would inform advisors. Ms. Garrison is taking a more active approach, including meeting with student organizations and providing a Writing Proficiency Requirement blurb that may be used by instructors on course syllabi. <http://academics.mwsu.edu/wpr/>.

Discussion ensued about degree plans and advisor approved schedules including the Writing Proficiency Requirement.

Mathew Lunsford, Student Government Association Senior Senator, asked why students must pay 25 dollars for the WPE. Dr. Clark said funding for the exam may be considered in the future. He also emphasized that the WPE is a valuable tool that offers this institution rich data for analysis.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Green

September 9, 2009