

# MSU Faculty Senate

## October 2010 Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on October 14, 2010, in Kiowa Ex-Students Room. Senators present included Bernard, Guy; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Callahan, Tom; Carlston, David (Vice-Chair); Fidelie, Laura; Gorham, Jim; Henschel, Don; Jun, Nathan; Lewis, Gary; Masuoka, Jim; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); McDonald, Terry; Medford, Ann (Parliamentarian); Mills, Dana; Owen, James (Chair); Roberts, Kathy; Schultz, Ed; Shao, Jianguo. Eugene Zhang represented Roy Patin.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

The minutes of the September meeting had been approved by e-mail vote.

### *Current Business:*

1. Meeting with Provost White. The Faculty Senate asked Provost White to address issues of concern to the faculty. She was asked to discuss the potential reduction in use of adjunct professors, the potential elimination of compensation for teaching overloads, the potential change in the current policy of granting a course reduction for teaching a graduate seminar, and the potential change in the compensation formula for teaching in the summer terms.

Dr. White began by stating that she is chairing the budget committee dealing with academics. Her goal is to maintain the same quality and credit hours while meeting the state's money demands. She would like to find ways to improve revenue flow to recover what the university is giving back to the state.

Her committee has met twice. The committee has established values that members feel are important and need to be protected. At its next meeting, the committee will hear from Vice President Juan Sandoval, who will explain the academic budget. The committee is in the fact finding stage and is not yet ready to make any recommendations about any policy, including those detailed above.

The provost stated that, over time, her goal would be to decrease course load for all faculty doing research. She stated that, ideally, every single faculty member doing research (presenting papers/publishing in peer-reviewed journals) should have a nine-hour load, not just those teaching a graduate seminar. She stated that at her previous university professors who wanted release time had to apply for it and to prove that they were doing or had done the proposed research.

Senators asked a number of questions about the three committees charged with investigating areas where budget cuts might be made to meet the state's requirement of returning 5-10% of its appropriations. A number of senators asked whether any committee is looking into possible cuts in the administration. In looking at the stated areas each committee is to consider, some senators

were concerned that no committee seemed to have the administration as its primary charge. Dr. White thought examining the administration would be part of each committee's job. Senators stated that without specifically charging a committee with studying the administration, study of possible budget cuts in this area could fall through the cracks. Senators want to make sure that the entire system is covered. Senator Roberts suggested making a list with the line items that establish the purview for each committee.

Senators also wanted to insure that communication is clear and open with everyone concerned. Senator Gorham thought that this was particularly important because members of two of the three committees were asked to sign confidentiality statements. The provost stated that requests can always be made to the committee chair for information. Secretary McClintock suggested frequent campus-wide e-mail communication from the committees. Dr. White thought that it might not be worthwhile disseminating ideas that might not have been thoroughly considered. Vice-Chair Carlston mentioned that, on the other hand, less favorable results arise if no one outside a committee is aware of the sifting process ideas are going through.

2. The Faculty Senate chose Lynn Hoggard as the university's nominee for the Piper Award. Other candidates were Michael Shipley (Science and Mathematics), Ed Schultz (Education), Jeff Killion (HSHS), Larry Archambo (Fine Arts), and Charles Bultena (Business).

*Committee and Other Reports:*

1. Administrative Council (Owen) (no report)
2. Board of Regents (Medford): (no report)
3. Academic Council (Carlston): (no report)
4. Enrollment Management (Green): (no report)
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Gorham): (no report)
6. Student Affairs (Williamson): (no report)
7. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$312.

*Closing items:*

*Old Business:*

*New Business:*

1. Secretary McClintock thought that faculty would be interested in hearing about the master's degree program in the liberal arts that the university is considering establishing. The degree is often called a Master of Liberal Arts or a Master of Liberal Studies, and such programs currently exist at over 100 universities in the country. What distinguishes this degree from a discipline-specific degree is its inter-disciplinary nature. There is usually an interdisciplinary introductory course that all students pursuing this degree take together. Each student then creates the degree plan he/she is interested in and chooses primarily among graduate course offerings already in existence at MSU.

2. Senator McDonald brought up a situation in the spring 2011 on-line course schedule that has created a problem for the honors program. With the printed schedule of classes, the honors

program had a designated section with a list of all honors courses. This no longer exists in the on-line schedule, and each honors course is listed only within each program's offerings. Senator McDonald asked if anyone else had noticed a problem in the on-line schedule which needed attention. No other problems were mentioned.

3. Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Committee. Dr Kathy Roberts is the Faculty Senate representative on the QEP committee. This committee will meet for the next two years in preparation of the SACS reaffirmation visit in 2013. The QEP process may be different from what we experienced during the last reaffirmation by design. SACS uses continuous quality improvement practices to improve the reaffirmation process.

The QEP must be designed and focused on enhancing student learning. Student learning is broadly defined as changes in knowledge, skills, behaviors or values. The committee will recommend a plan and course of action based on data collected from the community, alumni, employers of our graduates, our students, and faculty. It may focus on undergraduate or graduate student learning.

The job of the Faculty Senate's representative is to involve the senators in this process. This will work only if we all support and participate in the process. Kathy needs your help in: 1) proposing questions to ask the community, employers, students and faculty to determine what student learning improvement we should work on. 2) Asking your constituents where they believe we could improve student learning campus-wide.

Please send Kathy Roberts questions you would like included in our surveys, as well as any input you receive from your faculty constituents. Survey questions are needed by the beginning of November.

Announcements:

1. Chair Owen will attend the Texas Council of Faculty Senate's fall meeting in Austin October 29-30.

2. Vice-Chair Carlston said that he would be sending out the ballot via e-mail in the week of October 18 for election of this year's Faculty Award. Each faculty member can vote for two different candidates.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart McClintock  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Jim Owen  
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, November 4, 2010, in the Apache Board Room of CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, November 11, 2010, in Kiowa Ex-Student Dining Room in CSC.