

# MSU Faculty Senate

## September 2010 Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on September 9, 2010, in Kiowa Ex-Students Dining Room in CSC. Senators present included Bernard, Guy; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Callahan, Tom; Carlston, David (Vice-Chair); Fidelie, Laura; Green, Becky; Hammer, Margaret; Henschel, Don; Jun, Nathan; LaBeff, Emily; Lewis, Gary; Masuoka, Jim; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); McDonald, Terry; Medford, Ann (Parliamentarian); Mills, Dana; Owen, James (Chair); Roberts, Kathy; Schultz, Ed; Shao, Jianguo; Veale, Beth; Williamson, Anne-Marie. Brandon Smith represented Jim Gorham from Fine Arts. Professors Rankin, Diekoff, and Stiles attended the meeting.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

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

### *Current Business:*

#### 1. Dr. Rogers' visit to the Faculty Senate.

The Faculty Senate invited Dr. Rogers to address the Faculty Senate about concerns that faculty members have about potential changes to several policies and practices as a result of budget cutbacks.

Dr. Rogers said that the university must cut 5% from its budget for the next biennium and return it to the state. Further, the university must plan for a second 5% cut that might have to be returned to the state. The first 5% is a two million dollar cut, with a potential second two million dollar cut.

The university must, therefore, find ways to cut between two and four million dollars from its budget. Dr. Rogers said that some money would come from revenue resulting from the rise in enrollment. Some could also come from an increase in tuition and fees. The president emphasized that he did not think it was right to expect students to cover the entirety of the budget cut. Three committees are being formed to see where cuts in other areas all across campus can be made. Dr. Rogers and Vice-President of Administration and Finance Juan Sandoval will lead one committee dealing with ongoing projects and HEAF, Vice-President for University Advancement and Student Affairs Howard Farrell and Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs Keith Lamb will lead a second handling auxiliaries, and Provost White will chair the committee dealing with academics.

One way to cut spending is to institute a hiring freeze for positions that are open. These positions will remain on the books but will be unfunded so that a new tenure-track position does not have to be approved by the Board of Regents when finances do permit new hiring.

The Faculty Senate asked Dr. Rogers to address concerns that many faculty members have about potential changes to existing policy and practices that will affect them.

First, Dr. Rogers stated that salaries for summer-school teaching will follow the same formula that has been in effect for the past thirty-five years.

Secondly, he addressed the use of adjunct faculty and gave the advantages and disadvantages of having adjunct faculty. The president said that one of Midwestern's marks of distinction is that tenure-track faculty teach approximately 75% of courses, a fact he will report in Austin next week. Although it would be cheaper to run the university with adjuncts, such practice would ultimately be detrimental to the university's quality, and the university's priority is to use full-time faculty. However, he does see the need and value of some use of adjunct faculty.

Ultimately, the use of adjuncts will be examined on an individual basis.

Third, Dr. Rogers talked about teaching overloads and compensation for them. He again stated that teaching overloads will be examined on a case-by-case basis. In general, he would rather have a full-time professor teaching a class than an adjunct. However, he does not want to see situations in which professors are teaching six courses. He also emphasized that junior faculty, in particular, need to be developing their careers. He does not want to see the teaching of overloads getting in the way of a professor's research, which could impact tenure and/or promotion.

In the end, decisions about overloads and the use of adjunct professors will first be examined college by college, department by department. Ultimately, the president feels that the final decision about both issues will land on his desk.

Fourth, Dr. Rogers talked about course reduction for graduate faculty. At present, graduate-faculty policy states that a faculty member teaching a graduate course receives a course reduction because research expectations are higher for that professor. Dr. Rogers stated that automatic course reduction for teaching a graduate course needs to be examined. One idea is for a professor to request a course reduction and to explain what he/she will do with release time. Requests, again, would be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Fifth, restrictions about travel out-of-state and internationally have been lifted. Although overall funding will be cut by 10% across the board, a professor only has to justify why he/she needs to travel. The travel not funded by the state will be paid for by local money.

Sixth, Dr. Rogers thinks that Faculty Development Leave will be offered, and, at this point, the application process will be in spring 2011.

Dr. Rogers opened the floor to questions and comments.

Senator LaBeff asked if all possible cuts regarding energy savings have been implemented. She reported, for example, that she often sees lights on in many empty classrooms. Dr. Rogers stated that the physical plant has three different control systems and that they are not compatible. The university has applied for a low-cost loan to buy a single system that will pay for itself relatively quickly and will save money in the long run.

Vice-Chair Carlston asked if cuts were being made in other areas besides the institutional area. He said that he had examined budgets going back to 2005 and that the administrative budget has grown at a greater rate than the instructional budget. Dr. Rogers did not think this was the case but also said he would have to look at the budgets to make sure.

## 2. Graduate Council Motion.

Two weeks ago, the Graduate Council adopted a motion to keep the current policy (3.127) regarding course reduction for teaching a graduate course. The motion was unanimously approved. The exact wording of the motion follows:

The Graduate Council strongly opposes any action that directly or indirectly alters the current policy of granting course releases for graduate teaching, as any such action significantly undermines the efforts of the Graduate Council to ensure rigorous academic standards and promote scholarship within the Graduate College.

At the Faculty Senate meeting, Vice-Chair Carlston made the following motion, seconded by Senator LaBeff:

The Faculty Senate supports the Graduate Council motion relative to release time for teaching a graduate course.

The motion passed unanimously.

In a separate but related motion, Secretary McClintock motioned that stated university policy regarding graduate faculty membership be enforced.

The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Carlston. It passed unanimously.

#### *Committee and Other Reports:*

1. Administrative Council (Owen) (no report)
2. Board of Regents (Owen): (no report)
3. Academic Council (Carlston): (no report)
4. Enrollment Management Council (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.

#### *New Business*

1. Senator Fidelie reported that a colleague in her college wanted her to bring up the issue of parking problems.
2. Senator Green said that current roll sheets contain information about major but no longer have freshman/sophomore/junior/senior status listed. She would like to know this information. Chair Owen said that this information can be found on class lists in Banner. Senator Green asked professors to send her information that they would like to see on the roll sheets.
3. Mike Dye of Information Systems said that students must use blue or black pens to fill out evaluation forms.

#### *Announcements*

1. Piper Award nominees from each college will be sending their CV and cover letter to Chair Owen after which the Faculty Senate will pick the university's nominee.
2. Provost White will be forming a Quality Enhancement Plan for the upcoming SACS visit. Dean Watson will chair the committee. The provost will choose a Faculty Senate member among

three volunteers to serve on this committee. Kathy Roberts, Beth Veale, and Stuart McClintock volunteered.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50.

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, October 7, 2010, in the Apache Board Room of CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, October 14, 2010, in Kiowa Ex-Students Dining Room in CSC.