

# MSU Faculty Senate

## April 2011 Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on April 14, 2011, in Kiowa Ex-Students room in CSC. Senators present included Bernard, Guy; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Carlston, David (Vice-Chair); Gorham, Jim; Henschel, Don; Jun, Nathan; LaBeff, Emily; Lewis, Gary; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); McDonald, Terry; Medford, Ann (Parliamentarian); Mills, Dana; Owen, James (Chair); Patin, Roy; Roberts, Kathy; Shao, Jianguo; Veale, Beth; Vogtsberger, Roy.

Brittany Norman (*The Wichitan*), Randy Pruitt (*The Wichitan*), Terry Patton (Budget Oversight Committee), and Mark Farris (Budget Oversight Committee) attended the meeting.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

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

### *Current Business:*

#### **1. Visit with Dan Williams, Chief of Police**

The Chief of the MSU Police Department was originally invited to address the Faculty Senate to discuss ramifications resulting from the concealed weapons bill. At present, the bill does not have enough votes for passage so this discussion was put on hold.

Chief Williams addressed issues regarding parking. The number of parking tickets written and the income from them had fallen steadily over the past several years. The police department has stepped up writing tickets and collecting fines from them. In the 2009-2010 academic year, 8,900 tickets were issued. In the first semester of 2010-2011, 5,700 were written. Income is also up because of more rigorous collection methods. Students must pay fines before they can reenroll, receive grades, or have transcripts issued.

Other measures have been suggested to dissuade parking violations such as the use of a parking boot and of increased fines for repeat offenders.

There is a proposal to raise student parking fees to \$50 per year, to institute a \$50 parking fee for faculty and staff and a \$250 fee for a designated parking spot. Employees who earn less than \$30,000 will pay \$36 per year.

Further, a proposal also calls for an increase in the fine for violations. The fine for a parking ticket will increase from \$10 to \$20, for a moving violation from \$20 to \$40.

The chief of police plans to add more motorcycle parking spots in Lot 19.

In the fall, the chief would like to form a committee of students, faculty, and staff in order to examine ways to improve the parking situation.

With the increase in the number of students living on campus, the police department needs another full-time officer. Income from violations and the parking tag fee will fund the hiring of this new police officer.

## **2. Dr. Rogers and the budget**

Dr. Rogers visited with the Faculty Senate primarily to discuss budgetary issues.

The president began by updating the senate on the concealed weapons bill. He stated that it appeared that the bill would fall just short of passage in the Senate. He credited Senator Steve Ogden of College Station for his work toward this end. Also Chancellor Cigarroa of the UT system expressed negative views on the bill in a letter to the governor.

President Rogers praised the members of the Budget Oversight Committee for their work on helping formulate the university budget. Until the legislature passes the state budget, the Budget Oversight Committee will not meet again.

Last year, the university sent back \$1.7 million to the state. The university has set aside \$500,000 to send back in the spring if necessary.

Dr. Rogers forecasts that the university will have to cut \$6.4 million over the next biennium. The university plans \$3.2 million in cuts next year, will hold costs flat for the second year, which will represent another \$3.2 million.

President Rogers outlined a combination of income and cuts that will amount to a \$3.2 million reduction in the university's budget for 2011-2012. He emphasized that no part of the university will be hit any harder than another part under this plan.

First, the Board of Regents approved a 4% increase in tuition and fees, which will raise \$1.5 million. State law requires that 20% of tuition revenue must be set aside for scholarships, of which a quarter is sent to the state to fund the Be On Time program. Because some MSU students participate in this program, the university gets some of this money back. Dr. Rogers stated that the university's tuition was still about \$100 below the state average, even with the 4% increase.

Secondly, unfilled positions in faculty and staff will save almost \$1 million dollars next year and about \$600,000 the following year.

Third, travel and Maintenance and Operation budgets (M and O) will be cut by 10% after a leveling process takes place. Provost White proposed using a formula for new M and O funding by which each department gets an amount based on the number of professors it has multiplied by \$851. At present some departments get more than this amount, some get less. She will establish each department's allocation and will then cut it by 10%, amounting to about \$823,000 per year. Only the M and O for student recruiting will not be cut.

Fourth, changes in Dependents Educational Assistance Policy will cut about half of its current \$158,000 annual cost. A proposal establishes criteria that dependents must meet to qualify for the program. A dependent must be under 25, must meet full admissions standards, and must maintain a 2.0 average. The program will not cover spouses or tuition costs for graduate courses. If the student qualifies for financial aid, the tuition will come from funds in the tuition-set-aside program. If the student does not qualify for financial aid, tuition will be paid out of the budget of the Dependents Educational Assistance program.

Finally, Dr. Rogers would like to add about \$700,000 to university reserves. He would also like to put in reserve about \$300,000 in course fees. Dr. Rogers emphasized that rules were very specific about what these fees could be used for.

At the moment, the two houses of the legislature have not passed the budget. Under worst-case scenario, the university is still \$400,000 short. However, Dr. Rogers has not counted as income the tuition coming from the probable 1% increase in student body, which would cover the shortfall. If worst comes to worst, he will cut \$400,000 from the \$700,000 that he would like to put in reserve.

Dr. Rogers opened the floor for questions.

Senator Roberts stated that the university does not have enough large classrooms to accommodate the increasing number of classes with large enrollment. Dr. Rogers agreed and said that if the university continued to grow, it would have to build more large capacity classrooms.

Senator Gorham asked about the four-day summer school schedule. Dr. Rogers said that the four-day schedule had resulted in lower utility bills. He also mentioned that he was aware that there are both fans of and detractors from the four-day schedule, but, for the moment, this schedule would continue. Senator Gorham asked if a four-day schedule had been considered for the regular year. Dr. Rogers would rather the Faculty Senate address this issue before he weighs in. At present the Dillard College of Business is, for all practical purposes, on a four-day schedule.

Secretary McClintock asked when D.L. Ligon would be ready. Dr. Rogers hopes that it will open when basketball season starts in 2011. The infrastructure was worse than originally thought, and meeting ADA standards was also more complicated than originally planned. In meeting ADA standards, Ligon lost 1,500 seats, and, thus, graduation ceremonies will be elsewhere from now on.

Senator Veale asked if temperature controls and air quality in the Health Sciences and Human Services building could be improved. Dr. Rogers stated that there was not a single control system for the campus, and control units had been built to deal with humidity levels that existed in this area several years ago but that no longer exist. The university has applied for a grant from the state to buy a new central system that will be able to control all heating and cooling with one central system. Temperatures will be 74 in summer and 68 in winter.

While no project is currently planned, the buildings of the former Christ Academy are likely to be renovated at some point, possibly to be used for mass communications and music. Plans for the moment are to leave the open land as is.

Dr. Rogers mentioned that Austin had targeted cutting "small programs", but Midwestern had not really been affected.

He also said that Austin was trying to establish the 120-hour rule for graduation. The university has yet to be called on it. With a 48-hour core curriculum, meeting the 120-hour figure is unrealistic.

Senator Lewis asked Dr. Rogers if state revenues were up because of the spike in oil and gas prices. Dr. Rogers replied negatively, saying that the economy was primarily driven by sales and property taxes and that oil revenue only accounted for 10-15% of the state's income.

### **3. Changes to MSU Policy 3.347, Dependents Educational Assistance Policy.**

Senator Mills spoke about the changes to MSU Policy 3.347, Dependents Educational Assistance Policy. He stated that the Enrollment Management Council had recommended adopting the program with its proposed changes. (Dr. Rogers discussed these changes earlier in the meeting. See item number two for details.)

To this version, the MSU Faculty Senate, on a motion by Senator Veale with a second by Senator Patin, added an additional paragraph (G) with the title: **Sunset Review Date** that incorporates the following language: “A Sunset Review Date of **31 DEC 2016** is established as the date by which this policy must have been reviewed relative to its use and its effectiveness. This is also the date by which consideration of possible revision(s) to this policy must occur in order for it to continue as an active policy at Midwestern State University. Revisions that are adopted will become effective no later than the regular fall term of 2017.”

The Faculty Senate will vote electronically on the proposed policy with the additional Sunset Review Date added.

### **4. Review of Academic Dishonesty Policy**

Vice-Chair Carlston said that Provost White wanted to give the Faculty Senate every chance to get in on the front end of dealing with the review of the academic dishonest policy. A committee of stake holders will be formed, will meet over the summer, and will present recommendations next year.

The committee will likely address what qualifies as academic dishonesty, enforcement procedures, and the appeals procedure.

Senators Emily LaBeff, Kathy Roberts, and Dana Mills volunteered to serve on this committee.

### **5. On-line courses course evaluation**

The course evaluation form for on-line courses has been approved and will be used this spring. Senator LaBeff thought that the committee that came up with the form did a great job.

#### *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 (Mills): This committee made policy manual revisions to make sure policy manual is in line with student handbook. Senator Mills also gave a financial aid update. The university cannot make any changes to financial aid rules for state and federal funds, but it can modify criteria for university funds.
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Gorham): (no report)

6. Student Affairs (Williamson): (no report)
7. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$219.

*Closing items:*

*Announcements:*

1. Chair Owen said that the Board of Regents would meet on May 12 and 13. The Chair of the Faculty Senate always summarizes the Faculty Senate's activity over the past year for the BOR. Chair Owen asked senators to pass along anything they would like him to include in his summary.
2. The bookstore is going to implement a rental system for textbooks.
3. Senator Roberts announced that the Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) was looking to do some kind of university-wide service project.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05.

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 Tuesday, May 3, 2011 in the Apache Board Room of CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, May 5, 2011 in Dillard 189.