

# MSU Faculty Senate

## January 2011 Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on January 20, 2011, in Kiowa Ex-Students room in CSC. Senators present included Bernard, Guy; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Callahan, Tom; Carlston, David (Vice-Chair); Fidelie, Laura; Gorham, Jim; Green, Becky; Hammer, Margaret; Henschel, Don; 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.

Barb Merkle, Director of Admissions, sat in.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

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

### *Current Business:*

1. Senator Roberts raised the issue of bullying on campus. She stated that educators should be mindful of the consequences of bullying on campuses because it resulted in several suicides in the nation's schools last year. Further, she stated that there had been an incidence of repeated bullying in her department last semester that prompted the nursing faculty to take some action to prevent future bullying. The nursing faculty first established a definition of bullying and consequences of doing it. Nursing students have been apprised of these steps taken regarding their conduct.

Because the university's student code of conduct does not address bullying per se, members of the nursing faculty thought that the Faculty Senate should address this issue to avoid risk to students and to educate professors about it. Senator Roberts made the following resolution, seconded by Senator Lewis:

The Faculty Senate recommends the university develop a specific anti-bullying policy that includes education, reporting instructions and victim support.

Chair Owen opened the floor for discussion. Senator Hammer asked if the nursing department's actions had had success. Senator Roberts reported that the offending students had received sanctions. Senator Patin thought that the resolution touched on the three important bases that were necessary for it to be successful. Senator Lewis thought it important that educators be aware of and educated about bullying because of potential liability. Several senators wondered how to proceed if the Faculty Senate passed this resolution. Senator Callahan thought education for all concerned was important in order to recognize the line between bullying and violence and to recognize that bullying can turn to violence.

The resolution passed unanimously.

2. Course evaluation form for spring 2011. The course evaluation for spring 2011 will have the same twenty-two questions on page one which it had in fall 2010. The spring 2011 form will

have a section on the reverse side of the evaluation for each department/professor to add up to ten questions that it/he/she creates, if it/he/she wants to do so. There will also be two open-ended questions for students to give their opinions about the positive aspects of the course/instructor and about the areas where change/improvement could be made.

Senator Patin suggested putting a large note at the bottom of the first page to indicate to students to continue the evaluation on the reverse side of the form.

The forms will be ready earlier in the semester than they have been in recent years so that the evaluation process does not have to be done in the last week of classes.

The Faculty Senate will vote on the content and format of the course-evaluation form at its next meeting on February 10.

*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 (Green): Senator Mills will replace Senator Green for the remainder of the year as the Faculty Senate's representative on EMC.
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Gorham): (no report)
6. Student Affairs (Williamson): (no report)
7. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$714.

*Closing Items:*

*Old business:*

Senator Veale wanted to know if there had been any response to the Faculty Senate's resolution at its December meeting. Chair Owen said that the Executive Committee was to meet with Dr. Rogers the following day to discuss the budget and the Faculty Senate's resolution.

Senator Veale's query led to general discussion in the Faculty Senate about budget issues.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25.

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, February 3, 2011, in the Apache Board Room of CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, February 10, 2011, in Kiowa Ex-Students Dining Room in CSC.