

MSU Faculty Senate

March 2011 Minutes

The MSU Faculty Senate met at 2:45 PM on March 10, 2011, in Kiowa Ex-Students 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; LaBeff, Emily; Lewis, Gary; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); McDonald, Terry; Medford, Ann (Parliamentarian); Mills, Dana; Owen, James (Chair); Patin, Roy; Powell, Francis; Shao, Jianguo; Schultz, Ed; Vogtsberger, Roy; Williamson, Anne-Marie. Brandon Smith represented Jim Gorham, and Vicki Sanders represented Beth Veale. Shauna Kennedy from Information Systems attended the meeting.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

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

Current Business:

1. Visit with Budget Oversight Committee. Members of the Budget Oversight Committee (Jim Owen, Mark Farris, and Terry Patton) have begun meetings with administration members who are developing the 2011-2012 university budget. These committee members briefed the Faculty Senate about early developments in the budgetary process. The university budget is approximately 92 million dollars, and the state has been contributing about 23 million dollars towards that budget. Next year, it appears that the university will receive between 10 and 15% less from the state.

The administration is looking to develop a policy for early retirement buyouts. It will likely increase tuition, modify policy for use of university cell phones, and reduce mileage payment to 35 cents per mile.

Mark Farris stated that university employees can expect that their overall compensation will be going down. Contributions to insurance premiums will likely rise, and employees will probably begin paying for parking.

2. Emeritus status for retiring professors. The provost asked the Faculty Senate to consider retiring professors Charles Olson, Ernie Dover, Tom Galbraith, and Arvilla Taylor for emeritus status. There was universal praise for all members under consideration. Treasurer Bultena made a motion to support the nomination of these professors for emeritus status. Senator Patin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

3. Resolutions from the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS). Chair Owen attended the TCFS conference in Austin and reported on proceedings, particularly on two resolutions passed. The first resolution deals with the bill allowing concealed weapons on campuses. Senator Henschel thought that the likelihood of the bill's passage should not deter the Faculty Senate from endorsing the TCFS's resolution, which he then motioned to endorse. Senator Patin seconded the motion, and the motion that endorses the following resolution by the TCFS passed unanimously:

WHEREAS, allowing concealed firearms on university campuses threatens our ability to create and maintain a safe, open learning environment for students, faculty, and staff,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the members of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates oppose any legislation or initiatives that will overturn the present prohibitions on carrying concealed weapons on university campuses.

Senators voiced concern over need for training if the bill to permit concealed weapons on campuses passes. Chief of Police Dan Williams will be invited to the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Chair Owen cited another resolution that the TCFS had made dealing with increased workloads and expectations for research and service. Senator Patin motioned to endorse the TCFS's resolution. Senator LaBeff seconded the motion, and the motion that endorses the following resolution by the TCFS passed unanimously:

WHEREAS, the Texas Council of Faculty Senates recognizes the budgetary constraints of the 2011 legislature and current biennium funding period, and

WHEREAS, each university and college must respond to said constraints in ways that are appropriate to their institution,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Texas Council of Faculty Senates is opposed to the practice of increasing teaching loads for faculty while continuing to maintain the same requirements and expectations for research and service.

4. **Parking.** Senator Fidelie brought a comment from a professor in her college. The colleague would not mind paying for a parking spot, if it was reserved. It was pointed out that such a system is not possible on our campus because there are fewer reserved spots than there are reserved spot permits.

While on the subject of parking, Senator McDonald wondered if TAs and GAs receive permits to use reserved parking.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Owen) (no report)
2. Board of Regents (Owen): (no report)
3. Academic Council (Carlston): Provost White would like to review the Academic Dishonesty/Appeals Process policy and wondered if the Faculty Senate would like to address it first and send on recommendations to the Academic Council or do it the other way around. Senators would like to address it first and note the need to do so because of the significant amount of cheating that routinely goes on among students. Many Senators noted weakness in the current review and appeals process. At its next meeting, the Faculty Senate will address academic dishonesty, focusing on the appeals process for discipline.
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 \$46.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10.

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, April 7, 2011 in the Apache Board Room of CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, April 14, 2011 in Kiowa Ex-Students Dining Room in CSC.