

MSU Faculty Senate

April 2012 Minutes

The 2011-2012 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on April 12, 2012, in the Kiowa Ex-Students room in CSC. Senators present included Azouz, Idir; Bernard, Guy; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); DeBois, Barbara; Duff, Jeremy; Griffin, Terry; Hammer, Margaret; Henschel, Don (Parliamentarian); Johnston, James; Jun, Nathan; Lewis, Gary; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); McDonald, Terry; Mills, Dana; Owen, James (Chair); Paddack, Ted; Patin, Roy; Roberts, Kathy (Vice-Chair); Smith, Brandon; Stiles, Beverly; Veale, Beth; Wood, Julie. Juan Ibarra from the Staff Senate attended the meeting.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

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

Current Business:

1. Faculty employment contracts:

Provost White has proposed changes in the wording to the current faculty contract in order to close two loopholes that have arisen using the present form. First, she wants to make it policy that a professor will not be paid for a summer class if that class is cancelled due to low enrollment. She also wants to eliminate professors' teaching excessive overload courses.

Faculty had several concerns about the wording of the proposed contract, and the Executive Council met with President Rogers and the university attorney, Barry Macha, on Wednesday, April 11, to discuss these concerns. The Executive Council agreed that the loopholes were valid issues to address in a new contract form. The Executive Council also stressed that these issues were separate from any issue on professors' standard contracts for regular teaching loads. A proposal was made to have two different types of contracts in the future. President Rogers emphasized that the ultimate authority for defining contractual issues such as teaching loads and compensation for summer teaching is in the Policy and Procedures Manual. Further, contracts state that they must comply with these policies and procedures.

A proposal was made to have one contract for the academic year covering regular workload and a different contract for overloads, summer teaching, and adjunct and graduate assistant assignments. The same contingencies on the present contract for the regular academic year will be on the new form with some minor changes in wording. The contract for overloads, summer teaching, and graduate and adjunct assignment will have new contingencies added that are intended to close loopholes in the present system described above. The use of a separate overload contract will allow supervision of the number of overloads, such that the maximum load would be fifteen hours per semester. This form also states that a professor's class will be cancelled in summer if the class does not make, and the professor will not be compensated for the cancelled course. It also provides for a course reassignment in the summer for the cancelled class.. Finally, for both new contracts, a title change was suggested to use "Faculty Appointment Contract" rather than "Memorandum of Appointment".

Senators were sent the suggested changes to all contracts prior to the meeting for their consideration. Chair Owen made a motion to recommend acceptance of the proposed changes to

the contract forms. Treasurer Bultena seconded the motion, which allowed discussion of the suggested changes.

Faculty members from Radiology described the frustrating situation in which they find themselves with regard to the overload limit. They have a lot more students than can fit in their present courses. If they increase class size to accommodate student demand, the quality of the education delivered will be reduced. They cannot offer more classes to meet demand because of the limit to the number of overloads they can teach. They also have trouble attracting qualified teachers to teach those extra classes that need to be offered.

Some faculty members were concerned that the formula for summer school compensation is targeted. At the Wednesday meeting with the Executive Council, Dr. Rogers categorically stated that he has had no intention of modifying the present compensation formula. Further, summer compensation is defined in the Policies and Procedures Manual and cannot be modified without changing the Manual.

After further discussion, the Faculty Senate voted to recommend accepting the proposed changes to the contract forms. There was one negative vote and one abstention.

2. Core Curriculum: Chair Owen stated that he thought the state's proposal of the forty-two hour core curriculum was here to stay and that the best approach would be for faculty members to understand what it is.

There are two Senators on the Core Curriculum Committee, Julie Wood and Emily LaBeff. Senator Wood was the primary point person for the current meeting's discussion and questions about the future core. She made the following important points:

- The core will be reduced from MSU's forty-five hours to the state's forty-two.
- There are six core objectives, each with a certain percent of the forty-two hours.
- Just because a course is in the present core does not mean it will be in the new core
- For a course to be considered as part of the new core, the MSU Core Curriculum Committee must receive the syllabi for that course by September 17, 2012. The committee will review syllabi relative to the guidelines set forth by the THECB describing content, skills, and core objectives for each of the Fundamental Component Areas. Those courses meeting THECB requirements will be sent forward to the Provost and Academic Council for approval.
- Syllabi should include information pertinent to elements of core courses such as content, specific skill acquisition, outcomes, and assessment.
- If a course with multiple sections and multiple professors is proposed for the core, professors teaching that course can have different syllabi, but those syllabi should have certain common elements for the course regarding content, specific skill acquisition, outcomes, and assessment.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Owen): (no report)
2. Board of Regents (Owen): The BOR will meet on May 10 and 11.
3. Academic Council (Roberts): Course changes were approved, and modifications in wording of the course catalogue were made.
4. Enrollment Management (Mills): There was discussion about student retention, graduation rates, and enrollment. The committee also discussed the change in demographics at the university. MSU is no longer a commuter campus but a university that draws a large percentage

of students from the DFW area and elsewhere in the state. There is also a price/value survey being made.

5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Paddack): (no report)
6. Student Affairs (Williamson): (no report)
7. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$544.

Announcements:

1. Chair Owen announced that the May meeting is designated for election of officers for the following year. He encouraged Senators who would like to run for office to let it be known. He also said nominations from the floor would be accepted. Newly elected Senators for 2012-2013 should attend the May meeting because they vote for the officers.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart McClintock
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

James Owen
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at 3 PM on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, in the Apache Board Room of CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, May 3, 2012, in Dillard 189.