

MSU Faculty Senate

August 2012 Minutes

The 2012-2013 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on August 23, 2012, in Dillard 189. Senators present included Azouz, Idir; Black, Alan; Bowles, Betty; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Duff, Jeremy; Gibson, Martha; Griffin, Terry; Fidelie, Laura; Jun, Nathan; LaBeff, Emily; Lindt, Suzanne; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); McDonald, Dale; McDonald, Terry; Morrison, Gary (Parliamentarian); Morrow, Ruth; Owen, Jim (Chair); Patin, Roy; Roberts, Kathy (Vice-Chair); Sernoe, Jim; Stiles, Beverly; Wood, Julie.

The agenda was unanimously approved.
The minutes of the May meeting had been approved by e-mail vote.

Current Business:

1. Ratification of officers for 2012-2013:

The slate of officers was elected at the May meeting and had to be ratified at this meeting. The Faculty Senate ratified the following Senators as officers:

James Owen, Chair
Kathy Roberts, Vice-Chair
Stuart McClintock, Secretary
Chuck Bultena, Treasurer
Gary Morrison, Parliamentarian

2. Introduction of Senators:

Each Senator introduced himself/herself.

3. Provost Stewart:

The new Provost made a few statements and then opened the floor for questions. For her first year, she intends to listen, to feel her situation out, and has no agenda. She stated that some very important, pending issues would occupy all administration, faculty, primarily the SACS reaffirmation and the new core curriculum. She stated that she would be walking the campus to get a feel for each college. She also mentioned that she was interested in hearing from faculty members and would be available to that end.

4. Chair's comments about meeting procedures:

Chair Owen mentioned that he runs the meetings based on a modified version of Robert's Rules. He wanted to stress that a motion should be made about a topic prior to its discussion.

5. Secretary's comments about the minutes of the Faculty Senate meetings:

Secretary McClintock explained to new Senators the procedure for approving the minutes of each meeting. He first sends the minutes to the Senate officers and to those who addressed the Faculty Senate for a preliminary review for accuracy. The minutes are then distributed to the

entire Faculty Senate via e-mail for their consideration. Senators are asked to accept, abstain from, or suggest changes to the minutes. Suggestions, particularly those regarding grammar, spelling, and punctuation, are welcome. After minutes have been approved, they are posted on the Faculty Senate web site.

6. Faculty Award:

The Chair has all of the nominations for the Faculty Award except that from Dillard College of Business Administration. The Faculty Member of the Year will be determined by electronic voting and will be announced at the December graduation ceremony.

7. Piper Award:

The Chair has all of the nominations for proceeding with choosing the university's nomination for the Piper Award. The Senate will review each candidate's CV and documentation and then recommend one nominee to President Rogers. The Senate hopes to choose the nominee as soon as possible in order to give him/her as much time as possible to complete the lengthy application process.

8. Issues anticipated during the 2012-13 year:

Chair Owen stated that one of the issues that the Texas Council of Faculty Senates had been discussing at recent meetings was shared governance in which a university's faculty senate plays a larger role in determining university policy. The Chair wondered if this was a direction the MSU Faculty Senate wanted to consider.

The periodic review of the University Tenure and Promotion Policies is overdue. At the Executive Committee's meeting with Provost Stewart on August 21, Chair Owen suggested that the Senate take the lead in creating the committee to review these policies. She approved of the suggestion and asked the Senate to put forth two names from each college from which she would then choose the members of the review committee. Senators will poll their colleges and bring suggestions to the next meeting on September 20.

In light of the wide-ranging effects that the new core curriculum will have on the education that MSU students receive, Secretary McClintock wondered if these changes were a subject that the Senate would like to address this year. While some felt that these changes run counter to the mission of the university, Senator Wood, Chair of the Core Curriculum Committee, stated that these changes also presented a chance to design core courses in innovative ways such as the extensive use of inter-disciplinary offerings.

Chair Owen said that this issue was on the agenda of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates. He wondered if the MSU Faculty Senate should make a resolution that the TCFS would take up at its October meeting.

Chair Owen said that Mr. Munir Lalani, former Chair of the BOR, was a current member of the Texas Coordinating Board that designed the new core. At the Senate's suggestion, Chair Owen will invite Mr. Lalani to its next meeting to discuss the core.

9. Change in date of September 13 meeting:

Because many members of the MSU community plan to attend the Mustangs' football game at Texas Stadium on September 13, Chair Owen suggested changing the Senate's next meeting scheduled for that same day. The Senate agreed to meet on September 20.

10. SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation timeline:
Chair Owen distributed important dates to be aware of regarding the upcoming SACS accreditation visit.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Owen) (no report)
2. Board of Regents (Owen): (Chair Owen distributed his comments at the August 1 BOR meeting by e-mail.)
3. Academic Council (Roberts): (Catalogue changes for three colleges were approved.)
4. Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Black): (no report)
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Paddack): (no report)
6. Other Active Committees: (none)
7. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$514.

New Business: none

Old Business: none

Announcements: none

The meeting adjourned at 4:30.

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, September 6, 2012 in the Apache Board Room of CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, September 20, in the Priddy Conference Room on the second floor of Dillard across from the elevator.