

# MSU Faculty Senate

## December 2012 Minutes

The 2012-2013 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on December 6, 2012, in Dillard 189. Senators present included Black, Alan; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Debois, Barbara; Duff, Jeremy; Gibson, Martha; Griffin, Terry; LaBeff, Emily; Lindt, Suzanne; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); McDonald, Terry; Morrison, Gary (Parliamentarian); Morrow, Ruth; Owen, Jim (Chair); Paddack, Ted; Patin, Roy; Roberts, Kathy (Vice-Chair); Scales, Jon; Sernoe, Jim; Stiles, Beverly.

Professors Diekoff and Carlston attended the meeting.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

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

### *Current Business:*

1. Athletic Director Charlie Carr visited the Faculty Senate. Mr. Carr thanked faculty members for all they do to aid the 338 student athletes who attend MSU. He stated that athletics are often the most public face of a university, but he is aware that other, more important things are going on in academics.

The athletic department has two parts to its mission: to graduate student athletes and to provide an opportunity for them to grow and become successful, well-rounded individuals.

When asked about adding baseball at MSU, Mr. Carr stated that he would do so as long as it's not at the expense of other sports. The facility would have to be donor driven. Donations to support the baseball program would have to be sufficient so that other programs, including other sports, would not be impacted negatively.

Several Senators asked Mr. Carr to make sure that professors receive reports directly from coaches about projected absences from classes by student athletes.

2. Visit with Dr. Betty Stewart, Provost, and Dr. Marilyn Fowlé, Vice-President of Business Affairs and Finance.

Chair Owen had invited Provost Stewart and Vice-President Fowlé to speak to the Faculty Senate about budget issues. They made some statements and answered questions.

They stated that the raise of approximately four-percent for faculty salaries is still projected for 2013-2014 salaries. A pool of approximately \$500,000 is required to give this raise.

At the moment enrollment for spring 2013 is down 300 students.

Most of the discussion focused on summer school.

Dr. Stewart stated that a total of 717 students attended summer school in 2011 using Pell grant funds. The revenue generated from these students was a little over \$1 million. In 2012, a total of 241 students attended summer school using Pell grant funds. The revenue generated from these students was a little over \$250,000. The drop in enrollment among Pell Grant recipients was due to their not being able to use their grants in summer 2012 for the first time.

Dr. Stewart explained that each college would receive a fixed amount to use toward its 2013 summer-school budget. Each college will receive a percentage of the total summer budget based upon the average percentage of funds these colleges have received over the past three years.

E.g., Dillard 18%, Education 15%, Fine Arts 2%, HSHS 27%, PYHSS 23%, Science and Math 15%.

Dr. Stewart stated that the Board of Regents had adopted the new 1/14<sup>th</sup> summer-school pay schedule with a \$6,000 maximum to begin in summer 2013.

Dr. Fowlé showed a chart that explained how the fifteen-student standard for undergraduate summer courses had been established. On average the state contributes \$214 for a three-hour lower-level undergraduate course and \$336 for an upper-division course. Senators wanted to know where the breakeven point was for a summer school course when the tuition that students pay is added to the state's contribution. Dr. Fowlé was not able to pinpoint that figure because some of the revenue from tuition goes toward the operating expenses of the university, and some goes into paying salaries. She will look at the percentage of designated tuition it takes to break even.

There was general concern that the fifteen-student standard will result in a lot of class cancellations, which will, in turn, have a far-reaching negative impact. If students feel that courses will not be offered, they will go elsewhere for summer and potentially transfer entirely. If certain classes are cancelled, students fall out of course sequencing and will graduate in a less timely manner. Several Senators emphasized that the fixed costs of the university would continue regardless of the number of courses offered and thought that offering courses generating revenue to cover these costs was better than cancelling them.

Several Senators asked if courses with lower enrollment might be allowed to run despite losing money if these courses are balanced with those that have more, sometimes significantly more, than fifteen students, letting the excess in one course cover the shortfall of another. Vice-President Fowlé will investigate the number of courses between ten and fifteen students in summer 2012 to see if such a trade off would be feasible. Dr. Stewart emphasized that courses with fewer than fifteen students might run based on extenuating circumstances such as a student's needing the course to graduate.

A suggestion was made to have enrollment requirements vary based on course level. E.g., 1000- and 2000-level courses might have a higher limit to break even because they generally have larger enrollment but are funded at a lower rate by the state than 3000- and 4000-level courses. 3000- and 4000-level courses can break even with fewer students because funding from the state is higher for upper division courses. Drs. Fowlé and Stewart thought this idea worth considering.

#### *Committee and Other Reports:*

1. Administrative Council (Owen) (no report)
2. Board of Regents (Owen): Chair Owen distributed a copy of his comments to the BOR at its November meeting.
3. Academic Council (Roberts): The Academic Council approved an accelerated RN program.
4. Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Lindt): (no report)
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Paddack): Senator Paddack brought to the Faculty Senate's attention that the graduation rates of student athletes is higher than that of the general student body. He also wondered if student handbook was binding in terms of absence due to school-sponsored events.
6. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$1797.
7. Other active committees:

Senator Stiles reported that the faculty satisfaction survey is practically ready and that implementation will probably occur in early February.

Senator Morrow, the Senate's representative on the Tenure and Promotion Policy Review Committee, stated that the committee is currently discussing the part that research plays in the T and P policy. She also stated that departments and colleges are being asked to update their guidelines and to put them on line.

*New Business:* Senator Griffin raised an issue brought to him from a member of his college. The Senator asked if it would be possible to move the drop date from the ninth week to the twelfth week. He stated that it was often difficult to have a firm idea of a grade because too few grades had been recorded by the ninth week.

Senator Morrison said that the date was tied to financial aid and the possibility of having to repay monies received.

*Old Business:* none

*Announcements:* none

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 Tuesday, January 8, 2013 in the Apache Board Room of CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, January 10, 2013, in Wichita Suites room in CSC.