

MSU Faculty Senate

March 2012 Minutes

The 2011-2012 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on March 8, 2012, in the Kiowa Ex-Students room in CSC. Senators present included Azouz, Idir; Bernard, Guy; DeBois, Barbara; Duff, Jeremy; Griffin, Terry; Henschel, Don (Parliamentarian); LaBeff, Emily; Lewis, Gary; McDonald, Terry; Mills, Dana; Owen, James (Chair); Paddack, Ted; Roberts, Kathy (Vice-Chair); Smith, Brandon; Stiles, Beverly; Veale, Beth; Wood, Julie.

Parliamentarian Henschel took the minutes for the absent Secretary McClintock. The agenda was unanimously approved. The minutes of the February meeting had been approved by e-mail vote.

Current Business:

Provost White: Provost Alisa White spoke the Faculty Senate about two topics. She first distributed a copy of proposed changes to the wording of faculty contracts for summer school teaching, adjuncts, and overloads. She stated that the proposed changes to the wording of the contract more accurately reflected the practices in place for the past several years. Senators are to take the proposal to their colleagues for review and discussion. (See attachment for the proposed contract form.)

The Provost then discussed core curriculum. There is pressure from the state for 100% transferability. The Provost distributed a side-by-side comparison of the current Texas core objectives that are content based with the new 2014 Texas Core Objectives that are competency based. Dr. White indicated that she had presented this same information to the Core Curriculum Committee the day before the Faculty Senate meeting. The mandated core will be forty-two hours of which thirty-six are designated to fit certain areas. MSU can handle the remaining six hours as it sees fit, but they must fit into one of the four core areas. There was a good amount of discussion that our current four-hour science classes do not fit neatly into the six-hour opening. She also distributed a one-page handout indicating the timeline we are to follow, resulting in catalogue copy by February 2014 for inclusion in the 2014-2016 catalogue. It appears that all departments will have a substantial number of catalogue changes to make at that time. A good deal of spirited discussion followed, many concerns were voiced, but no formal action took place.

Robert Steflick, MSU Webmaster. At the February meeting, Mike Dye discussed information about IT with the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate invited the University Webmaster Robert Steflick to discuss issues regarding the university website.

The following items were discussed:

1. *Problems with the work order system.* The old system is being replaced by a new OS Ticket System that will take care of old problems.
2. *Accessing student records.* Faculty will have few, if any, problems accessing student records if they go through Webworld on the university site.

3. *Proprietary site faculty can use for items relevant only to students.* "Put it in the portal" seemed to be the common phrase. Mr. Stefflick said that he would ask Jim Hall about it.
4. *Podcasting.* Podcasting should not be a problem at this point. Mr. Stefflick asked faculty members to call him or Adam Chavez if they have a problem.
5. *Social media.* Mr. Stefflick expressed concern that MSU students are opening Facebook and other social media sites in the name of MSU. If unwanted material is posted, it can be difficult to back out of and/or close down such sites. Such unauthorized activity should be avoided.
6. *Monthly newsletter.* Mr. Stefflick stated that they were considering some sort of monthly newsletter to share information about updates in new programs and changes in university sites and systems.
7. *WCM.* We are currently using a \$1,500 five-year-old system for much of our online work. A \$25,000 "web content management" system is being considered as a replacement. It would remedy old problems and allow new operations-"rollback, redundancy, backup, and the ability to see who's getting traffic on which pages".

Emeritus Status for retiring professors. Senator LaBeff moved for approval of the list of professors eligible for emeritus status. They were all recommended unanimously.

Tenure and Promotion Policy Review Committee. Chair Owen asked for volunteers to serve on the Tenure and Promotion Policy Review Committee. Senators Jun and Smith volunteered.

Building on campus: Chair Owen updated the Senate about building projects on campus.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Owen): (no report)
2. Board of Regents (Owen): (no report)
3. Academic Council (Roberts): (no report)
4. Enrollment Management (Mills): (no report)
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Paddack): Senator Paddack reported that his committee discussed a major effort underway to field a men's baseball team in the next few years. It is felt that a baseball stadium would be built first for which there are donors ready to underwrite the venture.
6. Student Affairs (Williamson): (no report)
7. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$544.

Announcements:

1. Chair Owen announced that the April meeting would be the last regular meeting of the year because the May meeting is designated for election of officers for the following year.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart McClintock

James Owen

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Chairman of the Faculty Senate

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, April 5, 2012 in the Apache Board Room of CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, April 12, 2012 in Kiowa Ex-Students room in CSC.