

MSU Faculty Senate

April 2013 Minutes

The 2012-2013 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on April 11, 2013, in the Kiowa Ex-Students Dining Room in CSC. Senators present included Black, Alan; Bowles, Betty; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Fidelie, Laura; Gibson, Martha; Griffin, Terry; Jun, Nathan; Lindt, Suzanne; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); McDonald, Dale; McDonald, Terry; Morrison, Gary (Parliamentarian); Morrow, Ruth; Owen, James (Chair); Patin, Roy; Roberts, Kathleen (Vice-Chair); Scales, Jon; Sernoe, Jim; Wood, Julie.

Linda Veazey represented Jeremy Duff. Jan Brink, Michael Shipley, Julie Gaynor, and Chris Stovall sat in on the meeting.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

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

Current Business:

I. Provost Stewart's report on the SACS visit:

Provost Stewart reported that the SACS reaffirmation committee made only two minor recommendations that needed the university's attention. There were no recommendations regarding the QEP. The final vote will occur in December.

The Provost thanked faculty for their hard work in helping in the successful process of reaffirmation.

II. Patrick Weaver and Jenny Denning from the bookstore:

Our bookstore representatives reported that they had received only a third of book orders for fall courses. They would like faculty to get their orders in, in part, to help with the buy-back process. Books that are used in fall courses that the bookstore buys back stay on campus. If they know a book is to be used, it will not be shipped away.

Mr. Weaver said that about 80% of summer orders were in.

They reported that fewer students are selling books back to the bookstore because of the increase in rentals.

The bookstore is rolling out its new faculty site on April 15. The new site on the bookstore web site is called Faculty Enlight, and it will replace the current Faculty Center Network. Ms. Denning stated that Enlight is a much more sophisticated and easier tool to use than the Faculty Center Network.

Mr. Weaver discussed the use of Xanadu for professors who are interested in having textbooks customized. Out-of-print and old editions can be printed, professors can create a text using portions of current texts, and faculty can add worksheets into the customized text. The first printing requires four to six weeks and about two weeks thereafter. The contact for Xanadu is Ginger Logan 713-269-5609 / glogan@xanadu.com / www.xanadu.com.

III. Emeritus status for retiring faculty:

The Faculty Senate recommended that emeritus status be granted to those retiring faculty whose names had been put forward by deans and chairs.

Chair Owen will get the names of retiring faculty members not put forward by deans and chairs and distribute them to senators. If a senator would like to recommend that a professor on the list be granted emeritus status, that senator will write a letter in favor of the candidate and circulate it to all senators, who will then vote electronically whether to recommend that that retiring faculty member be granted emeritus status.

IV. SGA recycling resolution called “Campus Recycling Initiative”.

Chair Owen made a motion to endorse the SGA’s resolution regarding further recycling efforts on campus. Vice-Chair Roberts seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Senators praised the SGA for its initiative and hope it succeeds.

V. Turn-it-in software:

At present, all professors can use Turn-it-in, although only two colleges pay for its cost. If the program were to be adopted next year, the cost would be shared by all colleges in proportion to the number of students per college. Chair Johnston of Health Sciences and Human Services would like to know whether the entire faculty would like to adopt this software.

Faculty in PYCHSS were polled, and those who answered were very much in favor of adopting this software. Further, they asked that the university purchase the version of the software that is compatible with D2L. Professor Veazey stated that having Turn-it-in integrated into D2L requires going through fewer steps and would make student use easier.

Parliamentarian Morrison said that Turn-it-in charges \$4,000 more if it is to be integrated into D2L. He also stated that if professors were not comfortable using Turn-it-in when it’s integrated into D2L, they can still access it outside of the D2L platform. He encouraged faculty who are having problems with D2L to go to training sessions.

Vice-Chair Roberts motioned to endorse the acquisition of Turn-it-in. Professor Veazey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VI. Faculty Satisfaction Survey Results:

About 150 faculty members (55%) responded to the Faculty Satisfaction Survey. Senators Scales and Griffin analyzed the empirical data. Survey Monkey figured averages, and Professors Scales and Griffin determined the standard deviations. Senators Jun and Duff summarized the 120 comments that were on the survey.

Faculty concerns fall into four general areas: compensation (overall low salaries, salary compression, salary inequity among colleges), issues with the administration (transparency, lack of communication and visibility, decision making, better use of money), clarification of tenure and promotion criteria, and updating classroom technology.

Discussion arose whether the comments containing inappropriate language and anonymous personal attacks should have been censored. Most senators felt that censoring comments would

not have been in the spirit of the survey since no warnings about types of comments prefaced the survey. Any future faculty survey will clearly state that inappropriate language and anonymous personal attacks will be removed.

Senators Dale McDonald and Wood encouraged the Faculty Senate to open a dialogue with administration to discuss the results and actions that could be taken to address issues that the faculty have raised.

Time ran out before any specific plan to proceed was formulated. The Faculty Senate will have a special meeting on May 2 at 3:00 to discuss its course of action in light of the survey results.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Owen) (no report)
2. Board of Regents (Owen): (no report)
3. Academic Council (Roberts):

- Special Talent Program: Dr Lamb presented a change to the Special Talent program. The policy would assist in streamlining the process for special talent students to help them meet uniform admission standards. The council did not approve the proposed change and sent it back to the Athletics.
- The council approved new/updated definitions of credit hours - lab hours, studio hours etc.
- Catalogue changes were approved as well as new physics course additions. A new petroleum geology post-bac certificate program was also approved.
- The council approved a blanket memo for substitutions for philosophy in the core. This blanket approval will remain in place until the new core is approved.

4. Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Lindt):

- Senator Lindt reported that applications are up by 1300 over this time last year, and 900 more students have been admitted than at this time last year.
- The academic dishonesty policy is being rewritten.

5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Paddock): (no report)

6. Other active committees: (no reports)

7. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$1,170.

Closing Items:

Announcements:

1. A Communication from Texas A & M International: Chair Owen provided each Senator an electronic copy of an email from the Texas A&M International University (Laredo) faculty senate regarding expected funding for Texas higher education institutions in the state budget currently under consideration by the Texas Legislature. The email addressed the funding reduction for higher education for the 2011–12 State budget and the lack of funding restoration in the current budget proposals. TAMUI suggests that faculty senates at public universities in

Texas consider communicating with their respective representatives to support increased funding for higher education in the 2013–14 budget proposal.

2. University Committee appointments: Dr. Rogers suggested that senators serve on each important university committee. If the Faculty Senate is interested in shared governance by having representation on each important committee, more senators will have to be willing to serve.

May Faculty Senate elections: According to the Faculty Senate Constitution, the regular May meeting is only for election of next year's officers. Senators serving on the 13-14 Faculty Senate vote.

Chair Owen, Vice-Chair Roberts, Secretary McClintock, and Parliamentarian Morrison have decided not to run for re-election. Chair Owen encouraged senators who will be returning to discuss the officers' slate among themselves as well as to consider running for office.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart McClintock
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

James Owen
Chair of the Faculty Senate

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at 3 PM on Tuesday, April 30, 2013, in the Apache Board Room of CSC.

The Faculty Senate will have a **special meeting** on May 2, 2013, at **3:00 PM** in Dillard 189.

The next **regularly scheduled** Faculty Senate meeting will be at **4:00 PM** on Thursday, May 2, 2013, in Dillard 189.