

# MSU Faculty Senate

## March 2013 Minutes

The 2012-2013 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on March 7, 2013, in the Kiowa Ex-Students Dining Room in CSC. Senators present included Debois, Barbara; Duff, Jeremy; Griffin, Terry; Jun, Nathan; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); McDonald, Terry; Morrow, Ruth; Owen, James (Chair); Paddack, Ted; Scales, Jon; Sernoe, Jim; Stiles, Beverly; Wood, Julie. Jan Brink represented Dale McDonald.

Hillary Sommerhauser-Coenen, Coordinator of the Honors Program, attended the meeting.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

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

### *Current Business:*

I. Faculty Satisfaction Survey: The Faculty Satisfaction survey closed on February 28, and Senator Scales had gathered its responses for the March meeting. Because results were available just prior to the meeting, only preliminary conclusions can be drawn. Faculty concerns fall into four general areas of concern: compensation (overall low salaries, salary compression, salary inequity among colleges), clarification of tenure and promotion criteria, issues with the administration (visibility, cronyism, lack of communication, decision making), and updating classroom technology.

Senators Jun, Duff, Griffin, and Scales volunteered to do a thorough synthesis of the data for the next meeting.

Survey results will be sent to all faculty during the week of March 25. Senator Griffin offered to distribute data to faculty.

II. TURNITIN and D2L: Two colleges (HSHS and Dillard) are paying for a field test using TURNITIN that will last until fall. Professors in all colleges, however, can use this anti-plagiarism system. D2L was chosen, in part, because of its compatibility with systems like TURNITIN. At present, TURNITIN cannot be integrated into D2L because of the temporary contract.

Senator Duff expressed concern about various problems he regularly encounters using D2L. He said that the course builder required too many steps to use and reported that it did not always work correctly. He also stated that students have not liked it.

Senator Wood stated that D2L was the best tool for gathering data for classes.

Senator Debois mentioned that Pam Morgan had stated that the university was not married to keeping this course builder. Senator Debois suggested sending complaints about the system to Dr. Morgan directly.

III. Chair Owen reported on the Texas Council of Faculty Senate (TCFS) recent conference in Austin. The primary issues at the conference were self-governance and post-tenure review. Some faculty senates in Texas participate more directly in university governance. E.g., a senator serves on every university committee, which insures that a university's faculty senate is aware of university business. At present, the MSU Faculty Senate's role is to serve as an advisory body to

the university president. For the future, the Faculty Senate might examine if it wants to maintain this status or to try to become more actively engaged in governance.

*Committee and Other Reports:*

1. Administrative Council (Owen) (no report)
2. Board of Regents (Owen): (no report)
3. Academic Council (Roberts): (no report)
4. Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Lindt): (no report)
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Paddack): (no report)
6. Other active committees: (no reports)
7. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$1,617.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00.

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 Thursday, April 4, 2013, in the Apache Board Room of CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, April 11, 2013 in Kiowa Ex-Students room in CSC.