

MSU Faculty Senate

Minutes of Special Meeting

May 7, 2013

The 2012-2013 MSU Faculty Senate met for a special meeting at 4 :00 PM on May 7, 2013, in Dillard 189 to discuss concerns faculty have raised about the 2013 commencement speaker. Senators present included Bowles, Betty; Bultena, Charles (Treasurer); Debois, Barbara; Duff, Jeremy; Griffin, Terry; Fidelie, Laura; Jun, Nathan; McClintock, Stuart (Secretary); McDonald, Terry; Morrison, Gary (Parliamentarian); Owen, Jim (Chair); Paddack, Ted; Patin, Roy; Roberts, Kathy (Vice-Chair); Scales, Jon; Stiles, Beverly; Wood, Julie. Susan Harvey represented Ruth Morrow.

A large gallery composed of faculty, staff, administration, and students attended the meeting. After being invited by Chair Owen to share comments with the Faculty Senate, approximately ten members of the gallery spoke.

Vice-Chair Roberts, with input from Senator Fidelie, made the following motion that was seconded by Senator Jun:

The Faculty Senate recognizes that recent comments by Dr. Ben Carson are personally hurtful, insensitive, offensive, and alienating.

Therefore the Faculty Senate resolves that prejudice, hostility, and personal attacks based on sexual orientation, social status, race, disability, religion, ethnicity, gender, age or other demographic characteristics are unacceptable and should not be condoned by the university as a whole or by those who represent the university.

Further, the Faculty Senate encourages all faculty members and the broader university community to foster an environment that supports all aspects of diversity.

Moreover, the Faculty Senate urges faculty members, administration, the Board of Regents, and all associated with the university to endeavor to protect this supportive environment.

The Faculty Senate further recommends that a process be established to select future commencement speakers. The process should include students, faculty, and administrators so that recommendations for candidates for speaker can be made to the President.

After extensive comments made by both senators and visitors, Senator Jun called the motion to question.

The motion passed with fourteen votes in favor of the resolution and four against.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart McClintock

Jim Owen

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Chairman of the Faculty Senate

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at 3 PM on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 in the Apache Board Room of CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, August 23 in Kiowa Ex-Students room in CSC.