

MSU Faculty Senate

April 2021 Minutes (Draft for Approval)

The 2020-2021 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:300 PM on April 8th, 2021 via Zoom.

Senators Present:

Chuck Bultena	Tina Johnson	Kelly Medellin
Dave Carlston	Erica Judie	Karen Moriarty
Eduardo Colmenares	Tammy Kurszewski	Michael Olson
Vicki Dillard (for Kim Onstott)	Adam Lei	Beverly Stiles
Mary Draper	Marcos Lopez	Christopher Vivio
Leah Gose (for Morgan Page)	Matthew Luttrell	Lynette Watts
Timothy Hinchman	Janise McIntyre	

Guests:

Dr. Martin Camacho (Dean, Fain College of Fine Arts)

Ms. Dawn Fisher (Director, Human Resources)

Dr. James Johnston (Provost, Vice-President of Academic Affairs)

Housekeeping:

Dr. Lynette Watts made a motion to pass to accept the March minutes and Dr. Christopher Vivio seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Current Business:

1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan – Dr. Martin Camacho

As the University moves to address the concerns of faculty, staff and students in regards make MSUTexas more inclusive and diverse, this plan acknowledges that the plan will always be incomplete and will need change as the university continues to grow.

This plan has some small change since distribution to address deadlines in the plan. The SGA has been supportive with their feedback and endorsed this plan.

Chair of Senate, Dr. David Carlston, stated that it was nice to see that this plan would be incorporated into all university aspects, including T&P.

Dr. James Johnston stated that administration would like to integrate DEI as part of the overall Strategic Plan of MSUTexas.

Drs. Adam Lei and Marcos Lopez, as members of the DEI taskforce, agreed to gather feedback from colleges about the plan.

2. **Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee** – Dr. Lynette Watts
 - *OP 56.06 – Disclosure of Significant Financial Interests that May Represent Conflicts of Interest.* Dr. Johnston mentioned that this policy was not on the books yet but was required for a NIH grant.
 - Dr. Adam Lei moved for approval, and Dr. Watts seconded it. The motion **passed 19 – 1.**
 - *OP 02.24 – Purpose and Responsibilities of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs.*
 - Dr. Watts motioned for approval, and Dr. Bev Stiles seconded. The motion **passed unanimously.**
 - *OP 06.19 – Office Hours for Faculty*
 - Dr. Watts motioned for approval, and Dr. Tina Johnson seconded. The motion was **passed unanimously.**
 - *MSU UPP 3.150 – Misconduct in Research*
 - Dr. Lei asked what the actual penalties present in this policy. Dr Johnston stated that minor offenses would be handled by the Research Integrity Officer but sever breaches in ethics would fall onto established university due process procedures. Dr. Carlston clarified that the Research Integrity Officer could place penalties, but the University could add more and consider further action when necessary.
 - Dr. Mary Draper asked for the term “Scientific Misconduct” to be changed to “Research Misconduct” or simply “Misconduct”, and the changes were agreed to.
 - Dr. Watts motioned for approval with noted changes, and Dr. Tiffany Ziegler seconded. The motion **passed unanimously.**
3. *OP 52.25 – Criminal Background Checks – Employees and Volunteers*
 - Dr. Lopez motioned for approval, and Dr. Kelly Medellin seconded. The motion **passed with 19 yeas and 1 abstention.**
4. *MSU Policy 4.169 - Camps and Conferences (REMOVED)*
 - This policy was removed from the agenda and no votes were taken.
5. **Information Only**
 - *MSU Policy 2.38 – Faculty-Staff Meetings* (deletion)
 - *OP 02.29 – Purpose and Responsibilities of the Vice President for Student Affairs*
6. *T&P Policy Update*
 - No final handbook was ready, so no vote was necessary. Faculty Senate agreed that a meeting over Summer may be necessary for approval.
7. Elections will be held 4/22/21 at 3:00PM with new officers.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Board of Regents (Dr. Carlston): **No Report**
2. Administrative Council (Dr. Carlston): **No Report**
3. Academic Council (Dr. Lopez):
 - Fairness and standardization should be addressed for Writing Proficiency Revised Policy across colleges and departments.
 - Study Abroad decisions to be made by March 31
 - New Principal Designated School Official to be chosen.
4. Budget Oversight Committee (Dr. Cobb): **No Report**
5. Financial report (Dr. Stiles): **No Report**

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Submitted,

Marcos Lopez

Faculty Senate Vice-Chair

Next Meeting: April 22nd, 2021 with new Senators for officer elections.