

**MSU Faculty Senate
February 2022 Minutes**

The 2021-2022 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **February 10, 2022** via **Zoom**.

Senators present:

Andrea Bennett	Tina Johnson	Jonathan Price
Charles Bultena	Erica Judie	John Schulze
David Carlston	Tammy Kurszewski	Beverly Stiles
Sarah Cobb	Marcos Lopez	Bradley Wilson
Mary Draper	Kelly Medellin	Tiffany Ziegler
Catherine Gaharan	Karen Moriarty	
Leah Gose	Michael Olson	

Staff Senate Representative: Ruben Gonzalez

Guests: Dr. Martin Camacho (Interim Provost), Dr. Rodney Fisher (Radiological Sciences)

Call to order: 3:02 PM

Housekeeping:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes – Dr. Bradley Wilson made a motion to approve. Dr. Sarah Cobb seconded. Passed unanimously.

Current Business/Information Sharing:

1. Update on COVID – Dr. Moriarty

COVID cases are decreasing worldwide, including in Wichita Falls. While the number of deaths are increasing in other places, that increase is not proportional to the number of cases (unlike the Delta variant). However, the death rate in Wichita Falls is more proportional, likely due to the county’s low vaccination rate of 47%. As of the morning of February 10, the positivity rate had decreased to 28.5%. As a result of this downward trend, the MSU Incident Management Team is now meeting once a month (rather than once a week). Drs. Moriarty and Bultena noted that this data does not include home testing results.

2. Dr. Camacho – H.B. No. 1027

Dr. Camacho explained how H.B. No. 1027 will affect MSU. This law was passed during the last legislative cycle, and it will go into effect Fall 2022. It requires that institutions of higher education disseminate information about a course’s materials (including price of textbooks, ISBN, etc.) at least 30 days before the beginning of the semester. The bookstore will be actively assisting faculty with the implementation of this new policy. However, successful implementation requires timeliness on behalf of the instructor. Faculty will need to use the Bookstore “Faculty Discover” page on D2L to

submit their adoption requests or they can continue to e-mail the bookstore. The bookstore will then ensure that the necessary data is available in compliance with H.B. No. 1027. When the bookstore sends out its announcement about Fall adoptions, the announcement will include information about H.B. No. 1027.

Dr. Moriarty asked if the bookstore foresees any problems with this process, and Dr. Camacho said no. She also asked about adoptions for courses that are added late or change instructors. Dr. Camacho said that those should not be a problem due to the small number of these courses each semester. Dr. Bultena asked about the use of Follett for items that are purchased through direct internet sales. Dr. Camacho said that Follett will still assist with these items, even if they do not sell them. Dr. Wilson asked about the enforcement of this policy, and Dr. Camacho said he could find out more.

Dr. Camacho concluded by saying that information will be circulated about this bill in the usual e-mail from the bookstore. The key to compliance is timeliness in selecting materials from the Bookstore “Faculty Discover” page on D2L.

New Business:

1. MSU OP 06.20 Faculty Performance Review – *Dr. Camacho*

Prior to discussion, Dr. Moriarty noted that several faculty had expressed concern about the new timeline for APR submission for those going up for tenure and/or promotion. There was concern regarding the short timeline to complete the portfolio if a faculty were to teach during the summer and the ability to evaluate and include End of Course Evaluations. Dr. Camacho understood concerns about the tight timeline in regards to Tenure and Promotion, but that timeline is outlined in a different policy (OP 06.05). His purpose at Faculty Senate is to clarify this policy (OP 06.20).

In response to questions from Dr. Carlston about timing of the APR for those going up for Tenure and Promotion, Dr. Camacho explained that the policy does not mandate the exact date for completing the APR. Therefore, it can be completed early as long as it is completed by the date in the policy. Moreover, the updated form allows those faculty going up for Tenure & Promotion to include items up until the first Friday of the Fall semester, as opposed to until August 31.

Dr. Moriarty asked about those faculty teaching during the summer who are waiting on End of Course Evaluations to complete their APR. Dr. Camacho said that the Provost’s Office could make every effort to prioritize the prompt return of End of Course Evaluations for those individuals.

Dr. Johnson reported that faculty in her college had a question about the APRs for faculty and chairs and asked if the areas for review would be different. Dr. Camacho confirmed that Faculty and Chairs will have the same performance review areas in the updated form. Dr. Wilson asked and Dr. Camacho confirmed that the department chair must be in compliance with the deadline.

Dr. Camacho said that he would take this feedback into consideration. Because much of the Faculty Senate's feedback concerned the Tenure and Promotion Policy (OP 06.05), there would likely be little change to the policy discussed today (OP 06.20).

Dr. Moriarty noted that she recently had an opportunity to ask a couple of the Texas Tech Board of Regents about the tenure and promotion timeline. She asked them about the possibility of submitting tenure and promotion recommendations during the May meeting (rather than in February) in order to keep MSU's existing timeline. The regents explained that the Board has a specific set of items to be considered at quarterly meetings per the TTU Chancellor.

Note: After Dr. Camacho left the meeting, Dr. Wilson expressed concern that the university community found out that Dr. Camacho had accepted a position at Texas Tech through outside sources. When a senior administrator leaves, Dr. Wilson would like this information to be relayed to members of the MSU community by MSU.¹

2. **MSU OP 34.20 Radioactive Materials** – *Dr. Rodney Fisher (for Dr. Onstott)*

Dr. Rodney Fisher (Radiological Sciences) presented information about the procurement, use, and disposal of radioactive materials and radiation producing devices at MSU. He is a Radiation Safety Officer (RSO), which is a position that is mandated by the state. This policy was developed in response to equipment that was purchased in 2015 in the McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering. There were some communication issues that ultimately resulted in a citation and fine in 2019. This policy outlines procedures relating to radioactive materials and radiation producing devices. It requires that those using radioactive materials or radiation producing devices contact the Radiation Safety Committee, which consists of three RSOs, the Dean of McCoy, the Dean of Gunn, and the Chemical Safety Manager.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws Revisions** – *Dr. Moriarty*

The Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws revisions were approved by the faculty of MSU: 69.47% of all faculty on continuing contracts voted in this process. Of those who voted, 98.13% voted to approve the revisions. The documents have been sent on to the Provost's Office and the General Counsel.

2. **End-of-Course Evaluations** – *Dr. Moriarty*

There is no update on the proposal to link End of Course Evaluations within D2L for online courses.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. **Administrative Council** – *Dr. Moriarty*

No report. No meeting since last Faculty Senate meeting.

2. **Academic Council** – *Dr. Lopez*

¹ On Friday, February 11, 2022, the day after the Faculty Senate meeting, Dr. Camacho e-mailed the Faculty Senate to announce that he had accepted a new position at Texas Tech.

In January, the Academic Council approved several name changes. Additionally, they approved a new course entitled Gender, Sexuality & Media that is now being considered by the Core Curriculum Committee for inclusion in the Core.

3. **Budget Oversight Committee** – *Dr. Ziegler*
No report. No meeting since last Faculty Senate meeting.
4. **Enrollment Task Force** – *Dr. Moriarty*
Dr. Moriarty noted that she is a member of the Undergraduate Recruitment Subcommittee. This subcommittee meets weekly and continues to address recruitment efforts across campus. Dr. Moriarty reported that a recent recommendation from the Task Force was to transition back to a 5-day work week during the summer which will be implemented this year. Some of the staff on campus were unhappy about this transition.
5. **Leadership Advisory Council** – *Dr. Moriarty*
This Council met on Wednesday, February 10. There was a lot of discussion about making Wichita Falls into a college town. Members of the committee noted that MSU is not prominently featured on Wichita Falls' website.
6. **Treasurer's Report** – *Dr. Ziegler*
No report
7. **Other Committee Reports:** None.

Meeting adjourned at **4:00pm**. Dr. Olson made a motion to adjourn and Dr. Ziegler seconded.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Submitted,
Mary Draper
Faculty Senate Secretary

Karen Moriarty
Faculty Senate Chair

Next Meetings:

The next **Executive Committee meeting** will be at 3:00 PM on **Thursday, March 3** via **Zoom**.

The next **Faculty Senate meeting** will be at 3:00 PM on **Thursday, March 10** via **Zoom**.