

**MSU Faculty Senate  
January 2022 Minutes**

The 2021-2022 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **January 13, 2022** via **Zoom**.

**Senators present:**

Charles Bultena	Erica Judie	Kim Onstott
Sarah Cobb	Tammy Kurszewski	Jonathan Price
Eduardo Colmenares-Diaz	Marcos Lopez	Beverly Stiles
Mary Draper	Christina McIntyre	Bradley Wilson
Catherine Gaharan	Kelly Medellin	Jill Young
Leah Gose	Karen Moriarty	Tiffany Ziegler
Tina Johnson	Michael Olson	

**Staff Senate Representative:** Sierra Trenhaile

Call to order: 3:03 PM

***Housekeeping:***

Approval of Agenda

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

Dr. Moriarty discussed adjusting when meeting minutes are finalized and distributed. In the future, the Secretary will circulate the minutes to the Executive Committee soon after the meeting. They will then be distributed via an electronic vote to the whole Senate. This will allow Faculty Senate to expedite the posting of the minutes to the website. Drs. Wilson and Bultena noted that this procedure is similar to what has been done in previous years.

***Current Business/Information Sharing:***

**1. Update on COVID – Dr. Moriarty**

MSU is still in Phase IV of operation. Though cases are increasing due to Omicron, the death rate is staying stable. That said, the number of hospitalizations is increasing. Those who are vaccinated are less likely to be hospitalized. In Wichita Falls, the current positivity rate is 45.1%. The vaccination rate is 48.9%. According to Dr. Moriarty, Dr. Williamson noted that very few people are coming in for vaccinations at Vinson Health. He also believes that the number of COVID cases on campus may have peaked last week. Current policy at MSU is to isolate for five days after a positive test. Finally, Vinson Health is seeing an increase in the number of flu cases.

**2. MSU Centennial Celebration**

The Centennial Celebration is still scheduled to take place at MPEC on Thursday, January 27.

***New Business:***

1. **Faculty Senate Vacancy** (Prof. Morgan Page's vacated position)  
Welcome to Dr. Bradley Wilson (Mass Communication) who is assuming Prof. Page's vacated position.

***Unfinished Business:***

1. **Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws Revisions** – *Dr. Moriarty*  
Dr. Moriarty sent the revised Constitution and Bylaws to all tenured and tenured-track faculty on Tuesday, January 13. Votes are due by next Friday, January 21. Dr. Cobb asked for clarification about the phrases “continuing contract” and “continuing appointment”—both of which are used in the e-mail and/or documents. This led to a discussion about the representation of Instructors and Lecturers on Faculty Senate. As it stands, these employees are unable to vote for or be elected to the Faculty Senate. Both Dr. Cobb and Dr. Johnson expressed concern about this. Other Senators, include Dr. Medellin, offered ideas about what this representation could look like, such as “At-Large” positions. Dr. McIntyre called for Senators to talk with those in their colleges who are not represented by Faculty Senate to ensure that their voices are heard. Dr. Moriarty will research this issue more and report back. It is possible that Faculty Senate will then amend the constitution that is under consideration to allow for better representation.<sup>1</sup>
2. **End-of-Course Evaluations** – *Dr. Moriarty*  
Last meeting, it was suggested that the link to course evaluations be placed in D2L for online courses, rather than be sent in a separate e-mail. Dr. Moriarty followed up with Dr. Camacho (Interim Provost), who then corresponded with Pamela Morgan (Director, Distance Education) and Paul Chappell (Chief Information Officer) about integrating a link to the evaluations into the D2L course. This seems possible. They will investigate further and report back.

Senators also discussed the use of online evaluations for all courses. Both Drs. Wilson and Ziegler advocated for having online evaluations for all courses, including those that are taught in-person. Dr. Wilson made the point that MSU withholds grades for a variety of reasons, so it is unclear why course evaluations cannot also be linked to grade releases.

There was also discussion about the low response rate specifically for online courses. There was some discussion about the current end-of-course evaluations and some senators expressed a desire to have the evaluation revised with fewer questions. Dr.

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<sup>1</sup> Following the meeting, Dr. Moriarty met with Dr. Camacho to clarify this language. After consulting OP 06.01 (formerly MSU Policy 3.111), it was determined that instructors and assistant/associate professors on a non-tenure track with a renewable contract can serve on the Senate. Per the Faculty Senate's current Constitution, this group must be included in the voting for the revised Constitution and Bylaws. Dr. Moriarty sent an email to this group of faculty informing them of the revisions and asking for their vote.

Moriarty stated that we should wait to see if providing a link in D2L will improve the response rate before starting to take on revising the questionnaire.

**Committee and Other Reports:**

1. **Administrative Council** – *Dr. Moriarty*  
No report. No meeting since last Faculty Senate meeting.
2. **Academic Council** – *Dr. Lopez*  
No report
3. **Budget Oversight Committee** – *Dr. Ziegler*  
No report. Next meeting scheduled for January 19, 2022.
4. **Enrollment Task Force** – *Dr. Moriarty*  
No report
5. **Leadership Advisory Council** – *Dr. Moriarty*  
No report. Next meeting scheduled for February 9, 2022
6. **Treasurer's Report** – *Dr. Ziegler*  
No report
7. **Other Committee Reports:** None.

**Information Sharing:**

**1. Faculty Award**

Congratulations to Dr. Marcos Lopez for winning the Faculty Award!

**2. Annual Report**

The Annual Personal Report is still under revision. It is being revised to mirror the new Tenure & Promotion policy. More information will be forthcoming on proposed timeline changes. For faculty who are going up for tenure and/or promotion, the T&P portfolio will be due in August (as opposed to October) and the timing of the eligibility letter and Annual Personal Report will change. Moreover, the schedule of the Tenure & Promotion Committee will also change. The revised APR is currently being circulated to stakeholders for input. Once all input is received and the APR revisions are complete, the revised APR (OP 06.20) will follow the policy approval process.

Meeting adjourned at **4:06pm**. Dr. Wilson made a motion to adjourn and Dr. Bultena 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, February 3** via **Zoom**.

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