

**MSU Faculty Senate
March 2022 Minutes**

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

Senators present:

Charles Bultena	Tina Johnson	Kim Onstott
David Carlston	Marcos Lopez	John Schulze
Sarah Cobb	Christina McIntyre	Beverly Stiles
Eduardo Colmenares-Diaz	Kelly Medellin	Christopher Vivio
Mary Draper	Karen Moriarty	Tiffany Ziegler

Staff Senate Representatives: Sierra Trenhaile, Tamara McDuffy, Ronnie Wherry

Guests: Jenny Denning (Bookstore)

Call to order: 3:04 PM

Housekeeping:

Approval of Agenda

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

Current Business/Information Sharing:

1. **Update on COVID** – *Dr. Moriarty*

As of the morning of March 10, the positivity rate in Wichita Falls was 4.1% and the infection rate was .67%. When compared to the state of Texas, Wichita Falls continues to lag behind in terms of vaccination. 59.4% of Wichita County is vaccinated with at least one dose (compared to 71.4% of the overall Texas population). 52.3 % of Wichita County is vaccinated with at least two doses of Moderna or Pfizer or one dose of Johnson & Johnson (compared to 60.3% of the overall Texas population). 18.1% of county residents have received a booster (compared to 21.7% of the overall Texas population). Dr. Moriarty noted that experts believe that COVID-19 will remain endemic.

2. **Texas Council of Faculty Senates** (Spring Meeting, April 8-9, 2022) – *Dr. Moriarty*

This event, which meets twice a year, brings together the Faculty Senates of Texas universities. In the fall semester, the meeting had a virtual option. But this April meeting will be in-person at the Embassy Suites in Austin. No members of the Executive Committee are able to attend, so Dr. Moriarty is inviting other Senators to attend. If you are interested, e-mail Dr. Moriarty. Both Drs. Bultena and Stiles noted that they had attended in the past. They found the meeting to be informative and useful.

3. **Presidential Search Update** – *Dr. Moriarty*

On Monday, March 7, the Chancellor of the Texas Tech University System, Dr. Tedd Mitchell, introduced the sole finalist for the MSU Presidency, Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek of Washburn University. In accordance with Texas law, there is now a 21-day review period. After 21 days, should there be no issues with her appointment, Dr. Mazachek will be formally issued a contract.

Dr. Bultena noted that he was impressed with how the TTU system managed the Presidential search process.

New Business:

1. **HB 1027, Operationalized** – *Ms. Jenny Denning*

Ms. Denning discussed how HB 1027—a new law that requires institutions of higher education to disseminate information about course materials (including price of textbooks, ISBN, etc.) at least 30 days before the beginning of the semester—will be operationalized. To comply with this law, the bookstore needs the assistance of faculty members. This includes the following:

- Faculty members must provide the bookstore with all relevant information about course materials.
- Should any course materials require an access code, the bookstore needs to be alerted.
- Faculty members need to ensure that assigned books are not out of print. If the bookstore cannot locate an old edition of a book, they can contact a vendor partner about copy permissions and see if the chapters from the book can be made into a course packet.

When asked about the frequency of students using Amazon to purchase books, Ms. Denning noted that all students who are on scholarship (including Priddy Scholars and athletes) must purchase their materials from the bookstore, as the university provides these materials to the students. Therefore, it is imperative that the bookstore have access to all course materials.

When Dr. Moriarty asked about the timeline, Ms. Denning noted that faculty teaching summer courses have already been notified of this procedure. Adoptions for fall courses are due April 15. A letter about this process will be sent by Dr. Camacho.

Lastly, Ms. Denning urged faculty members to abide by the deadline. While the bookstore staff recognizes that there can be extenuating circumstances that result in late adoption of course materials, it is difficult to acquire used books when ordering late in the summer.

2. **Councils and Committees for AY 2022-23** – *Dr. Moriarty*

Dr. Moriarty noted that the Faculty Senate usually votes on recommendations for university councils and committees at the beginning of the fall semester. In order to make this process less rushed, Dr. Moriarty will distribute a list of Faculty Senate appointments that will be available in the Fall during the May meeting. This will give Senators more time to discuss these positions with colleagues.

Unfinished Business:1. **End-of-Course Evaluations** – *Dr. Moriarty*

The Executive Committee discussed MSU's process of End-of-Course Evaluations with Dr. Johnston. After that conversation—and after research into how other universities design and distribute their evaluations—the Executive Committee is interested in surveying faculty about what they want and need from the evaluation process. Likewise, the Executive Committee would like to survey students about what they like and do not like about the process and brainstorm how to ensure a higher response rate.

Dr. Cobb noted that it would be good to go through SGA. Dr. Moriarty has already talked to Austin Strode, SGA President.

Dr. Moriarty also discussed the possibility of working with a staff member from MOSAIC to ensure the questions are as unbiased as possible. Dr. Cobb noted that there are many studies discussing how this process is biased regardless of the questions.

Dr. Carlston noted that increasing the student response rate is crucial to T&P portfolios. There needs to be some mechanism to hold students accountable in order to increase the response rate.

Dr. Moriarty discussed how the turn-around time for evaluations is frustrating. During her meeting with Dr. Camacho, he noted that there was room for improvement in this process.

Dr. McIntyre suggested implementing a pilot program for one semester when students scan QR codes during class to submit their evaluations electronically. Dr. Moriarty noted that during the pandemic when all end-of-course evaluations were online (Fall 2020), Dr. Camacho reported that they were completed while in the classroom. He had a response rate of 47%.

Committee and Other Reports:1. **Administrative Council** – *Dr. Moriarty*

No report. No meeting since last Faculty Senate meeting.

2. **Academic Council** – *Dr. Lopez*

The Academic Council has met, but Dr. Lopez did not have anything to report.

3. **Budget Oversight Committee** – *Dr. Ziegler*

Dr. Ziegler explained that this is not a year of formal departmental hearings, so the committee has been streamlining the process for support. It has been focusing on four areas: (1) Compensation Enhancements, (2) Investments to support enrollment and retention, (3) Investments to support QEP, and (4) Enhancements and advancements for DEI. Dr. Ziegler also noted that the HEAF requests are due April 1.

4. **Enrollment Task Force** – *Dr. Moriarty*

The Undergraduate Enrollment and Recruitment subcommittee continues to meet on a weekly basis. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Task Force and

then to the administration for approval.

5. **Leadership Advisory Council** – *Dr. Moriarty*
No report. No meeting since last Faculty Senate meeting.
6. **Treasurer’s Report** – *Dr. Ziegler*
No report.
7. **Other Committee Reports:** None.

Meeting adjourned at **3:45pm**. Dr. Lopez made a motion to adjourn and Dr. Draper 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 31** via **Zoom**.

The next **Faculty Senate meeting** will be at 3:00 PM on **Thursday, April 7** in person (location TBA).