

**MSU Faculty Senate
January 2023 Minutes**

The 2022-2023 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **January 12, 2023** via **Zoom**.

Senators present:

Jennifer Anderson	Sanchari Choudhury	Jonathan Price
Salim Azzouz	Mary Draper	John Schulze
Charles Bultena	Grace Edgar	Dawn Slavens
David Carlston	Catherine Gaharan	Emily Smith
Randy Case	Dittika Gupta	Beverly Stiles
Sarah Cobb	Lauren Jansen	Bradley Wilson
Eduardo Colmenares-Diaz	Kelly Medellin	Jill Young
Bob Comello	Karen Moriarty	Tiffany Ziegler

Staff Senate Representative: Anna Daugherty

Guests: Dr. Marcy Brown Marsden (Interim Provost); Dr. Keith Lamb (Interim President)

Call to order: 3:00 PM

Housekeeping:

Approval of Minutes: Dr. Case motioned to approve the minutes. Dr. Anderson seconded. *All approved.*

Approval of Agenda: Senators agreed to delay Committee Reports until the February meeting.

Current Business/Information Sharing:

1. Changes in leadership/responsibilities – Dr. Keith Lamb

Dr. Lamb, the newly announced Interim President, shared updates about Dr. Mazachek's resignation. He explained that Dr. Mazachek arrived at Midwestern in May 2022, having served Washburn University in Topeka for 30 years. Then, the long-time president of Washburn announced his retirement. The Washburn Board of Trustees conducted a search and did not identify a candidate. The board then approached Dr. Mazachek over winter break. Although Dr. Mazachek's resignation comes at a difficult time (as we head into the legislative session and prepare for a SACSCOC re-accreditation visit), Dr. Lamb is confident that Midwestern and the TTU System will be able to continue the necessary work and start the search for a new president.

Dr. Lamb then welcomed questions from the Faculty Senate. When asked how he will manage all of the responsibilities of Interim President as well as his oversight of student affairs and enrollment management and his position as Chief Strategy Officer, Dr. Lamb

said he expected to announce some temporary changes in student affairs to relieve some of his responsibilities. When asked for insight into the upcoming search for a new president, Dr. Lamb said he expected Chancellor Mitchell to communicate the process and timeline to him in the next few weeks. The Provost search is on hold until a new president is hired. Finally, when asked if the searches for Provost and President could be completed by the end of summer, Dr. Lamb said he did not think so. Dr. Wilson expressed concerns about repeating a closed search. He was also concerned about the number of interim deans and chairs on campus. Dr. Brown Marsden noted that we can move forward with some searches, as they cannot wait any longer.

Dr. Lamb noted that he is more than willing to come visit the colleges in the coming weeks. He is also willing to come to Faculty Senate anytime his presence is requested.

2. Information from the Provost's Office – Dr. Marcy Brown Marsden

Dr. Brown Marsden, who began her appointment as Interim Provost on December 5, discussed four issues with the Faculty Senate: interim appointments, tenure and promotion, SACSCOC, and her desire for communication.

Interim Appointments: Several new interim appointments have been recently or will be announced. First, Dr. Sarah Cobb is serving as Interim Dean of McCoy as Dr. Brown Marsden serves as Interim Provost. Next, after Dr. Zuckweiler left in December, her responsibilities were divided among two people. Brittany Norman will oversee OSPR. Dr. Tiffany Ziegler will serve as Interim Dean of McAda, and she will have oversight of the TLRC as well. Additionally, the Graduate School staff and administration are now located in Ferguson Hall.

Tenure and Promotion: As Interim Provost, Dr. Brown Marsden has reviewed the portfolios for tenure and promotion. She will be presenting the portfolios to the TTU System Board of Regents meeting in February. There is a slight lag in reviewing emeritus nominations, however. When asked about the transition to digital T& P portfolios, Dr. Brown Marsden said that she would support the faculty's decision.

SACSCOC: Dr. Brown Marsden updated the Faculty Senate on the upcoming SACSCOC reaccreditation visit. She noted that Jeremy Duff is the University Accreditation Liaison, and he has been a wonderful representative for Midwestern. In advance of the visit, there is a focused report due on February 13. That report will respond to offsite comments. Then, the onsite visit will occur March 27-30. Dr. Brown Marsden has a long history with SACSCOC and feels confident about the university's plan and leadership. Dr. Stiles asked if SACSCOC is concerned about the leadership changes across campus. Dr. Brown Marsden said that Dr. Duff has been keeping the team updated on these changes.

Communication: Dr. Brown Marsden understands the anxiety, concern, and stress that this campus is under right now. She announced that she would welcome any faculty into her office on Friday, January 13 to discuss any issues or concerns. She is open to hosting future open houses if this proves useful.

3. **Dr. Tiffany Ziegler – Dr. Karen Moriarty**

Dr. Tiffany Ziegler is the recipient of the Carnes Fellowship for this year. She will conduct research in Brussels for two weeks this Spring.

New Business: No new business

Unfinished Business:

1. **End-of-Course Evaluations – Dr. Slavens, Ad Hoc Committee Members**

The Ad Hoc Committee has met once and will soon meet with Dr. Kristen Garrison, Dr. Pam Morgan, Shauna Kennedy, and Paul Chappell to discuss next steps. Dr. Slavens noted that the committee needs information on completion rates in order to brainstorm how to increase those rates for online evaluations. Dr. Moriarty has already discussed the issue with Dr. Brown Marsden, and Dr. Brown Marsden will support whatever faculty want to do.

2. **Faculty Resources for Tenure and Promotion – Dr. Moriarty**

Dr. Moriarty noted that Dr. Brown Marsden is fully supportive of digital T&P portfolios. She also noted that Southern Illinois uses D2L for portfolios. Dr. Mike Olson was there during that transition and is willing to provide guidance on the platform and process.

Committee and Other Reports: *Committee Reports were delayed until the February Meeting.*

Meeting adjourned at **3:57pm**. Dr. **Schulze** made a motion to adjourn and Dr. **Gupta** 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 2** via **Zoom**.

The next **Faculty Senate meeting** will be at 3:00 PM on **Thursday, February 9** (Location TBD).