

MSU Faculty Senate October 2023 Minutes

The 2023-2024 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **October 12, 2023** in Centennial Hall 340.

Senators Present:

Jennifer Amox	Grace Edgar	James Masuoka
Salim Azzouz	Catherine Gaharan	Claudia Montoya
Chuck Bultena	Sandra Groth	Karen Moriarty
Randy Case	Yu Guo	Kimberly Onstott**
Sanchari Choudhury	Dittika Gupta	Dawn Slavens
Hillary Coenen	Sally Henschel	Beverly Stiles
Eduardo Colmenares-Diaz	Timothy Hinchman	Bradley Wilson
Vicki Dillard	Erica Judie	
Mary Draper	Tammy Kurszewski*	

* Attended as proxy for Jennifer Anderson

** Attended as proxy for Rodney Fisher

Representative from Staff Senate: Richard Elliot (Vice Chair of Staff Senate)

Guests: Fatima Marquez (SGA Representative)

Call to order: 3:02pm

Housekeeping Items

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes – Dr. Stiles motioned, Dr. Wilson seconded. *All approved.*

Current Business/Information Sharing

1. Provost Search Committee – *Dr. Moriarty*
Dr. Moriarty shared that the Provost Search Committee has been established. It includes Dean Jeff Stambaugh (chair), Dr. Bradley Wilson, Dr. Dittika Gupta, Dr. Salim Azzouz, and SGA President Zetta Cannedy. Members of the committee shared that 30 applicants have already applied, and they are now conducting zoom interviews. They hope to complete the search before the end of the semester.
2. Faculty Forum: Dr. Kirsten Lodge – *Dr. Moriarty*
The first Faculty Forum of the year is October 19, 2023 at 7:00 pm in Legacy Hall. Please spread the word and support Dr. Lodge.
3. Midterm Progress Reports: Due before October 22, 2023 – *Dr. Moriarty*

Dr. Moriarty reminded senators to submit midterm progress reports for students in danger of earning a D or F in a course. Use the link sent by Dr. Kristen Garrison, rather than the Navigate interface or BANNER. If anyone has questions, please contact Dr. Garrison.

4. Communication to Colleges - *Dr. Moriarty*

Dr. Moriarty asked faculty senators to provide a brief synopsis to colleagues in their colleges after each meeting.

New Business

1. Faculty Senate priorities for AY 2023-24 – *Dr. Moriarty*

After the last meeting, Dr. Moriarty circulated a poll to determine what the Faculty Senate should prioritize this academic year as long-term and short-term goals. Those goals are listed below. Dr. Moriarty shared that the Faculty Senate does this to ensure that they are being proactive, rather than reactionary.

Long-term goal: Faculty workload (67% of voters)

Dr. Moriarty shared that the policies below are all up for review. They also relate to faculty workload. The Faculty Senate then discussed each of these policies.

a. OP 06.17 Faculty Workload

Dr. Moriarty asked for one volunteer from each college to discuss the details of this policy with their dean and faculty. In particular, please discuss if course releases in the college mirror those in the policy. The following senators volunteered: Drs. Henschel and Stiles (PYCHSS), Dr. Case (GCHSHS), Dr. Masuoka (MCOSME), Dr. Amox (FCOFA), Dr. Choudhury (DCOBA), and Dr. Hinchman (WCOE).

b. OP 06.18 Summer School Teaching

Faculty senators discussed how this policy does not address eleven-month contracts. Additionally, the Provost's Office has already requested information about summer teaching in an effort to address budget issues.

c. OP 06.19 Office Hours for Faculty

Faculty senators expressed concerns that the hours mandated by this policy might increase when this policy goes through review. Moreover, the policy does not address zoom office hours, which are necessary for online courses and enable contact with working students. The policy needs to address that some faculty only teach online courses, and that some programs are entirely online.

Senators wondered if faculty should use Navigate to track official and ad-hoc office hours. This would enable them to generate a report that demonstrates that their availability often exceeds the five mandated office hours.

d. OP 06.20 Faculty Performance Review

This policy needs to be updated to address peer review, as mandated by SB 18. Some faculty senators discussed that the chairs could be considered peers. Faculty senators should ask colleagues for feedback about this policy.

Short-term goals (top 3):

a. Recruitment of local students

Dr. Moriarty spoke with Dr. Michael Mills about local recruitment. He shared that MSU admitted 782 students from Region 9, and 347 enrolled at Midwestern. Additionally, the admissions office recently implemented provisional admission for incomplete applications in an effort to attract more students.

MSU is always looking for ideas to increase enrollment, so please share any ideas with Dr. Brown Marsden.

Moreover, Dr. Moriarty will invite Dr. Mills to the next Faculty Senate meeting to share an update on recruitment and admissions.

b. Faculty development

Due to time constraints, this issue will be addressed at a later meeting.

c. Artificial intelligence in academia

Due to time constraints, this issue will be addressed at a later meeting. In the meantime, the TLRC is hosting a workshop on artificial intelligence next week.

Unfinished Business: None

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Academic Council: *Dr. Slavens*

Dr. Slavens shared that Academic Council met in September. The agenda was short, and included the early registration proposal for parenting students that Dr. Brown Marsden shared during last Faculty Senate meeting. The council also approved changes to course descriptions and the admission requirements for the Ed.D program.

The Faculty Senate then discussed that the future of the Writing Proficiency Exam is on the agenda for the next Academic Council meeting. It is being recommended that both the WPE and the Writing Intensive requirement no longer be required for graduation. Senators noted that this decision was made without input from the University Writing Council.

2. Administrative Council: *Dr. Moriarty*

No meeting.

3. Allocations Advisory Council: *Dr. Moriarty*

No meeting.

4. Athletics Council: *Dr. Gaharan*

No meeting.

5. Budget Oversight Committee: *Dr. Stiles, Dr. Capps*
No meeting.
6. Enrollment Management Council: *Dr. Draper*
No meeting.
7. Leadership Advisory Council: *Dr. Moriarty*
No meeting.
8. Student Affairs: *Dr. Case*
No meeting.
9. University Celebration of Scholarship: *Dr. Edgar*
No meeting.
10. Others? Dr. Moriarty reminded the Faculty Senate about the TLRC event next week. She also asked to extend the allotted time for Faculty Senate meetings to 1.5 hours. Senators were amenable to longer meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 4:19pm.

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, November 2** via **Zoom**.

The next **Faculty Senate meeting** will be at 3:00 PM on **Thursday, November 9** in Centennial Hall 340.