

MSU Faculty Senate

August 2020 Minutes (Draft for Approval)

The 2020-2021 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on August 20, 2020 via Zoom.

Senators present:

Chuck Bultena	Tammy Kurzewski	Morgan Page
Dave Carlston	Adam Lei	John Schulze
Sarah Cobb	Marcos Lopez	Beverly Stiles
Eduardo Colmenares	Matthew Luttrell	Christopher Vivio
Mary Draper	Janise McIntyre	Lynette Watts
Catherine Gaharan	Kelly Medellin	Tyler Williams
Timothy Hinchman	Karen Moriarty	Tiffany Ziegler
Tina Johnson	Michael Olson	
Erica Judie	Kimberly Onstott	

Guests:

Ruby Garrett (Staff Senate Representative)

Call to order: 3:00 PM

Housekeeping:

The agenda and the May minutes were approved.

Current Business:

1. Senator Introductions

Senators introduced themselves. Senator Carlston reminded the senators that senators from each college should make sure that information from senate meetings is relayed to college faculty more generally.

2. Committee Assignments (Dr. Lopez)

Representatives were elected to university committees whose membership is recommended by the faculty senate. Positions and those elected are listed below:

- **Enrollment Management Council:**

- Matthew Luttrell – MUSC
- **Pre-Law Scholarship Committee - 3 Faculty**
 - Eunji Cho – MCOM
 - Eric Lynch – FREN
 - Mary Draper
- **University Data Standards/Security Committee - 1 Faculty**
 - Jason Bly - ART
- **Architect Selection Advisory Committee - 2 Faculty**
 - Suguru Hiraide - ART
 - Erica Judie – RESP
- **Student Allocations Committee - 1 Faculty**
 - Steve Hilton - ART
- **Regents' Professor Selection Committee - 1 Faculty**
 - Whitney Snow - HIST
- **Budget Oversight - 2 Faculty Senate**
 - Sarah Cobb – MATH
 - Beverly Stiles – SOCL
- **Publications Board - 1 Faculty**
 - Jennifer Dawes – ENGL
- **Traffic Appeals Committee - 1 Faculty**
 - Preet Sharma – PHYS
- **504/ADA Grievance Committee - 1 Faculty (Alternate)**
 - Adam Lei – FINC
- **Employee health and Fitness Committee - 1 Faculty**
 - Erica Judie – RADS
- **Admissions Committee - 3 Faculty (2 are Alternates)**
 - Becky Green – ENGL – Alternate
 - Dittika Gupta – EDUC Full Member
 - Steve Hilton – ART - Alternate
- **Intercollegiate Athletics Council - 1 Faculty**
 - Soon-Mi Choi – EXPH
- **Academic Appeals Committee - 2 Faculty**
 - Delores Jackson – EDUC
 - Jessyca Wagner – RADS
- **Artist-Lecture Series Committee - 1 Faculty**
 - Claudia Montoya – SPAN
- **Faculty Forum Committee - 1 Faculty**
 - Jonathan Price – GEOS

3. Board of Regents Update (Dr. Cobb)

Senator Cobb reported several items from the Board of Regents meeting:

- The Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Tech University System was approved.
- The state has reduced appropriations by 5% for the biennium. The budget has also been prepared projecting for a 5% drop in enrollment, though enrollment will likely not drop so significantly.
- The university's membership in EAB's Student Success Collaborative and implementation of the Navigate platform began in July. Training for faculty will be offered during this academic year.
- The proposed Ed.D. program has been approved by THECB. Pending approval from SACS, the first courses will likely be offered in Spring 2021.
- The first designated Writing Intensive Courses are being piloted this year in the College of Health Sciences and Human Services.

Senator Carlston added that the Title IX policy has been revised. Dr. Keith Lamb and Laura Headrick, the new Title IX coordinator, will attend the September senate meeting to discuss the changes. Senator Page will send out a summary of the changes for review before the meeting.

4. Texas Tech System (Dr. Carlston)

Dr. Carlston stated that the Executive Committee had reviewed drafts of the Memorandum of Understanding in order to provide feedback and had also met with Dr. Shipley and Debbie Barrow to discuss the issues that had come up. He emphasized that Tenure and Promotion policy will remain under the control of MSU and that the System respects autonomy of member institutions. A policy review will be required as the process moves forward.

5. Return to Campus Questions and Concerns

Senators expressed various questions and concerns about the return to in-person classes on campus.

- Several senators expressed concerns about the safety of returning to campus and questions about the number of COVID-19 cases MSU is likely to experience this semester. Some faculty wanted a better sense of the circumstances in which MSU would return to a remote instruction model.
- Some senators stated that the hybrid course modality represented a significant increase in workload.
- A senator asked whether a faculty member could be considered liable if a student contracts COVID-19 from contact within a classroom.
- Several faculty asked for more clarity about who would be notified about student COVID-19 cases and how. In particular, it is not clear whether the instructors of those students' classes will be notified.

- In general, senators wanted decisions to be made earlier and communicated more quickly and clearly.
- Several senators asked for guidance on how to respond to students requesting to attend a hybrid or face-to-face class by livestream. The approach to this seems to vary widely between colleges and clearer guidance from the administration is needed.
- Senators expressed appreciation to the following people and departments for their hard work and support during the pandemic and the return to campus.
 - The Return to Campus Task Force
 - Facilities Services
 - Information Technology
 - Dani McAfee and the Office of Distance Education
 - Kristi Schulte and Residence Life

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Dr. Carlston):

No meeting

2. Academic Council (Dr. Lopez):

No meeting

3. Other active committees:

No report

4. Financial Report (Dr. Stiles):

No report

New Business:

A senator asked whether the process for applying for graduation could be made electronic.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Submitted,
Sarah Cobb,
Faculty Senate Secretary

Dave Carlston,
Faculty Senate Chair

Next Meetings:

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

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