

MSU Faculty Senate

April 2016 Minutes

The 2015-2016 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **April 14, 2016**, in **Kiowa CSC**. Senators present included Charles Bultena, Laura Fidelie, Jeremy Duff, Jonathan Price, Ray Willis, Phil Wilson, Kym Acuña, Rodney Fisher, Jennifer Anderson, Charles Watson, David Carlston, Greg Giddings, Beverly Stiles, Suzanne Lindt, Andrew Allen, Lauren Jansen, and Susan Harvey. Guests in attendance were University President, Dr. Suzanne Shipley, University Provost Dr. Betty Stewart, Director of Residence Life Kristi Schulte, and Staff Senate Representative Sue Witherspoon.

Current Business:

1. The Faculty Senate unanimously approved the minutes from the March 2016 meeting.
2. University President, Dr. Suzanne Shipley and Dr. Laura Fidelie addressed the Senate about Campus Carry. A chart was presented that compared Campus Carry Policy Proposals across the major state universities in Texas to the proposal from MSU. This chart has been uploaded to the Faculty Senate website. A question was raised about labs across campus. Dr. Shipley stated that she plans to create a group who will determine what labs will be open to campus carry and what labs will be closed. This will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Dr. Shipley desires a policy that will “fit our campus the best.” Dr. Shipley and Dr. Fidelie stated that there are plans to host two open forums on Campus Carry. There will also be safety training offered.
3. Dr. Shipley discussed the possibility of the DFW satellite campus. She stated that this “changes every day,” but that faculty will not leave in May and come back in the fall to a brand new campus. She stated there are three major concerns with the proposed DFW campus. 1) Are we spending money on something that would best be spent somewhere else? 2) Will faculty be forced to go somewhere and teach something that we do not want to? (Currently the answer is “no”). 3) Does this fit with the mission of MSU? Dr. Shipley stated that some community colleges have opened discussions with MSU about placing us on their campuses. These included Weatherford College and North Central Texas College. She stated that Dr. Stewart has met with Dean Johnston (Health Sciences and Human Services), Dean Capps (Education), and Dean Patton (Business Administration) about the possible classes their colleges could offer on one of these campuses. She said that it would not cost the University much to launch classes in these locations.

Dr. Shipley stated that the market study for the DFW Campus will finish and be presented to the Board of Regents at the May 2016 meeting. However, no decisions will be made at that time. It is highly unlikely that there will be a full-

fledged off-campus center before the beginning of the Fall 2016 semester. Her desire is to begin by partnering with a community college.

4. Provost, Dr. Betty Stewart addressed the Faculty Senate on the proposed changes to the Emeritus Policy. The Board of Regents asked the committee in charge of revising the Tenure and Promotion Policy to make revisions to the Emeritus Policy. There seemed to be a lack of standards for consideration. Over the summer of 2015, Dr. Stewart asked an assistant to look up Emeritus policies at COPLAC schools, Universities in the Lone Star Conference, and Texas Research 1 universities. These ranged “all over the board.” The committee decided that overall our current policy was fine, but they recommended changes to the process. The main change is that faculty will be nominated by their deans or chairs and then the nomination will be considered by the University Tenure and Promotion Committee. Previously nominations were made to the Faculty Senate and the Senate recommended those to the Board of Regents. Deans or chairs will have twelve months from retirement to nominate someone. Dr. Stewart would like to take this revised policy to the Board of Regents before the May 2016 meeting. She would like to have a recommendation from the Faculty Senate at that time. Chair Carlston stated that he will issue an email vote of the Faculty Senate on the revised policy.
5. Director of Residence Life Kristi Schulte addressed the Senate about the new Faculty in Residence position in the new residence hall. This will be a faculty mentor position whose purpose is to “bridge the gap between the classroom and residence hall.” This is not an uncommon position across universities but will be new to MSU. Residence Life would like to recruit a faculty member who is interested in “out-of-the-box” relationships with students outside the classroom. The selected faculty member will be provided a 2 bedroom, fully furnished apartment in the new residence hall. This will be separate from the students. The faculty member will also be provided an employee meal plan, employee parking space, programming funds (\$500 per semester), and the possibility of course buyout funds. Pets, spouses, and children are allowed. This position is not a “super RA” position.

Additionally, Residence Life is looking for faculty who are interested in developing “Living Learning Communities.” These would group students from the residence halls who have a common educational interest with faculty who would develop programming. They are wanting to begin this around the Fall 2017 semester. If you are interested contact Residence Life.

6. *Committee and Other Reports:*

Administrative Council (Carlston): No report.

Academic Council (Fidelie): They met and approved several catalog changes.

Board of Regents (Carlston): No report.

First-Year Task Force (Lindt): They are meeting on April 15, and plan to meet each Friday for the next four weeks. Dr. Lindt stated that there are so many stakeholders in the process it has been difficult to agree on a model for the program. Currently there are four different models being discussed.

Student Affairs (Lindt): No report.

Campus Carry (Fidelie): Covered above.

Budget Oversight (Stiles): They are meeting regularly. The budget allows for \$772,000 to meet requests from across the colleges. The actual requests total \$800,000 OVER this amount. These requests include faculty and staff pay raises of 1% and meeting the recommendations of the Staff Compensation Plan. The committee will start ranking priorities next week. It was expressed that the Faculty Senate would like to see the details of the Staff Compensation Plan. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will request this from Dr. Marilyn Fowlé.

Liberal Arts Statement Group: There will be a survey issued soon. Please encourage your peers to complete the survey.

Finances (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$1338.00

New Business: The Faculty Senate is working with Dr. Shipley on students who are being admitted to the University under review. An effort is being made to quantify the preparedness of incoming students. Dr. Shipley is concerned that there is a perception among faculty that students are less prepared than they have been in the past. She would like to hear from the faculty as to whether this perception is widely held, if this is impacting teaching, and if so, what possible solutions might be available. The Faculty Senate has put together a survey to gauge the concerns on this matter.

Some faculty have expressed to the Senate that there seem to be too many orientation events on campus that require extensive faculty participation. There are questions about whether we need this many, and how effective they are. There is concern that the University continues to do more of these without properly measuring their effectiveness. The Faculty Senate will be asking for a calendar of these events and also data on their effectiveness.

Please remind your colleges to submit their nominees for the Piper Award and the Faculty Award.

The May 2016 Faculty Senate Meeting will be for elections only.

Old Business: None

The meeting adjourned at **4:03pm**.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Duff
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

David Carlston
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

Next Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting: May 4, 2016, at 4pm.

Next Faculty Senate Meeting: May 5, 2016, at 3pm, in Dillard 189.