

# MSU Faculty Senate

## April 2015 Minutes

The 2014-2015 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **April 9**, in **CSC Kiowa**. Senators present included Sally Henschel, Laura Jansen, Jane Leach, Beth Veale' (proxy for Vicki Sanders), Barbara DeBois, Jennifer Anderson, Jonathan Price, Suzanne Lindt, Linda Veazey (proxy for Jeremy Duff), Susan Harvey, Charles Bultena, Stuart McClintock, Phil Wilson, David Carlston, Alejandro Gelves, and Angie Reay (Staff Senate Representative). Present as a guest was Provost Dr. Betty Stewart.

### *Current Business:*

1. The Faculty Senate discussed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Office of the Provost has demonstrated a specific need for individuals to teach high demand courses including introductory courses in biology, English, political science and speech; and

WHEREAS, when such courses fill and current faculty are unable to offer additional sections, students simply take the courses at other institutions; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Northwestern State University supports, in principle, the creation of a non-tenure track, lecturer position; and further

RESOLVED that such positions would be one-year contracted positions with the people filling the positions teaching core classes of high need during a student's first two years at the university; and finally

RESOLVED that the Office of the Provost in conjunction with the Faculty Senate will form a committee to write a specific policy to be implemented in the fall of 2015 regarding such positions.

Chair Carlston explained the resolution to the Senate and then discussed the meeting Dr. Betty Stewart and the Deans held with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee prior to the current Faculty Senate meeting.

Dr. Stewart addressed the Faculty Senate.

She stated that with the current pressure to deliver two core curriculums through 2017, both with the same number of faculty, a need to add a lecturer position to teach some of these core classes has arisen in a number of departments.

In some cases, students are having to be advised to take general education courses at other institutions in order to meet the demands of the core.

The pressure is most felt in English, Speech, A&P, Political Science and Mass Communications.

Dr. Stewart wants to allow students to take core courses on campus with full-time instructors who will be under the supervision of their respective departments.

Dr. Stewart has met with the Deans of each college and has their support.

In response to several questions from Senate members, Dr. Stewart answered:

These positions would attract people working as adjuncts at multiple campuses. These would be full-time positions with benefits. They are not meant to be permanent. They are meant to fill a need right now. They are not to replace tenure-track positions. These are not the same as instructors. Instructors are faculty who may have not finished their degree. Lecturers will have finished a masters degree. Lecturers would be focused solely on core classes. They would hold office hours like regular faculty. The University would like to hire five of these positions for the fall.

The motion passed unanimously.

Three members of the Faculty Senate will join Dr. Stewart's committee to write the final policy for the lecturer position. They will work over the summer so that the policy can go to the Board of Regents at the August 2015, meeting.

The hiring process will begin immediately.

Sally Henschel, Jonathan Price, and David Carlston volunteered to serve on the committee.

Once the final policy is completed, the Senate will vote on it via email at some time this summer.

2. The Senate discussed the Faculty Education Incentive Plan. The plan needs to be consistent with other policies. The faculty member will pay up front for the courses he/she wishes to take and will be reimbursed. In order to qualify, the faculty member must be able to justify the need for course credit. Human resources will manage the paperwork.

The Senate voted unanimously to approve the plan.

3. Enrollment data from the Office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management was distributed. Additionally, the Senate discussed the growing burden of the orientation events on campus and were told that the Deans may be helpful in working out schedules so that certain events could be promoted for certain majors.
4. The Faculty Senate discussed the preliminary Faculty Senate schedule for academic year 2015-2016.

The Senate plans to invite incoming University President Dr. Suzanne Shipley to visit the Senate at the first meeting of each semester. The rest of the planned visitors is as follows:

September: Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment, Dr. Keith Lamb

October: Vice President of Business Affairs and Finance, Dr. Marilyn Fowlé

November: Provost, Dr. Betty Stewart

December: Vice President of University Advancement and Public Affairs, Dr. Howard Farrell

January: University President, Dr. Suzanne Shipley

February: Vice President of Administration and Institutional Effectiveness, Dr. Robert Clark

5. *Committee and Other Reports:*

Student Affairs (Lindt): Meets the week of April 13, 2015. Senator Lindt attended the Student Affairs conference. She wants to see more communication. Right now they are focused on enrollment and retention. They would like to see more support from faculty.

Finances (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$1730.00

*New Business:* The Library has undergraduate research scholarships available. The deadline for the Annual Research Award is May 2. Senator McClintock gave an update on the Celebration of Scholarship Schedule.

The West College of Education will select a member to visit the next Board of Regents Meeting.

*Old Business:* None

The meeting adjourned at **4:08 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Duff  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

David Carlston  
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

Next Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting: May 5, 2015, in PY Staff Lounge

Next Faculty Senate Meeting: May 7, 2015, in Dillard 189