

# MSU Faculty Senate

## August 2016 Minutes

The 2016-2017 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **August 25, 2016**, in **Kiowa CSC**. Senators present included Charles Bultena, Laura Fidelie, Jeremy Duff, Bradley Wilson, David Carlston, Phillip Wilson, Catherine Gaharan, Stacia Miller, Kym Acuña, Jeff Killion, Rodney Fisher, Debra Kelley, Victoria Sanders, Jennifer Anderson, Beverly Stiles, Charles Watson, Raymond Willis, Jonathan Price, Salim Azzouz, Nathan Jun, Yvonne Franke, Andrew Allen, and Christie Maturro (proxy for Karen Dabney). Guests in attendance were University President, Dr. Suzanne Shipley, and Staff Senate Representatives Angie Reay and Johnna Lynn Weigand.

### *Current Business:*

1. Dr. David Carlston, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.
2. The Faculty Senate unanimously approved the meeting's agenda, as well as the minutes from the May 2016 regular meeting and the May 2016 special meeting.
3. University President, Dr. Suzanne Shipley, addressed the Senate. Dr. Shipley welcomed the Senators to the new academic year. Dr. Shipley discussed data regarding student performance in the classroom and how this can be tied to the ways that we are admitting students. Dr. Shipley stated that as we are seeing academic challenges increasing in our student populations, this is a good time to look at how incoming students are categorized in order to set them up for academic success. Dr. Shipley presented data regarding actions taken by the Admissions Office for 3 categories of students (students who met admissions criteria and had no review; those who did not meet admissions requirements and were admitted after a review; and those who did not meet admissions criteria and were admitted without a review). Since 2011, there has been an increase in freshmen students who did not meet the admissions requirements but who were admitted without review.

Dr. Shipley expressed concern that as this number of students who do not meet admissions criteria, yet are admitted without review increases, this trend is reflected in the classroom. Given the data she presented, those admitted by review appear to be students who perform reasonably well on standardized tests but had low high school rankings, suggesting that they be lacking in academic discipline or motivation. The group of students who are admitted with no review even though they do not meet the admission standards but are "close" do not receive the same support as others who are admitted by review. In order to address these issues, Dr. Shipley will form an Admissions Task Force which will be charged with making recommendations to the Cabinet on the best way to address this issue.

Dr. Shipley also gave the Senate an overview of the money given in financial aid, as well as the academic incentives that now exist in athletic coaches' contracts.

4. Dr. David Carlston, Senate Chair, gave a schedule of the 2016-2017 Faculty Senate meeting dates and encouraged each College to select a Senate point person to keep their College updated on Senate activities
5. Dr. Carlston will distribute a list of committee needs via email. Senators were asked to talk to individuals within their Colleges to determine whether they are willing to continue committee service and/or whether they would like to fill a new committee position. Committee positions will be voted on at the September meeting.
6. Dr. Carlston will send a list out of potential nominees for the Piper Award. The Senate will vote on the MSU Piper Award nominee at the September meeting.
7. Dr. Carlston discussed that some faculty have expressed concerns with the advising that students receive at the Mustangs Advising Center. Senators were asked to solicit feedback from colleagues on this issue for discussion at the September meeting.
8. *Committee and Other Reports:*

Administrative Council (Carlston): No report

Academic Council (Fidelie): No report

Board of Regents (Wilson): The Board discussed Academic Success and Campus Carry. The Board also addressed the student-initiated issues of a potential change to the official MSU color and the campus smoking policy. It was reported that the overall GPA of MSU athletes was particularly low during the past academic year.

Strategic Planning (Carlston): The committee has been tasked with addressing 4 goals:

- 1) Promoting a strong university committee (led by Reagan Foster)
- 2) Aggressively pursuing new student populations (led by Jeff Stambaugh)
- 3) Creating a destination and residential university (led by David Carlston)
- 4) Stimulating a culture of engagement (led by Venera Flores-Stafford)

The leader assigned to each of these 4 goals has been tasked with developing strategies for accomplishing each of these 4 goals.

Budget Oversight (Stiles): They will not be meeting until December.

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

*New Business:* A concern was raised about whether faculty members could choose to exempt their own offices from campus carry. Both Laura Fidelie (Campus Carry Task Force Chair) and Rodney Fisher (Campus Carry Implementation Task Force Member) explained that this was not realistic as it would create significant logistical issues for the University, as well as likely violating the provision of Senate Bill 11 which states that University regulations cannot generally prohibit the carrying of firearms on campus.

*Old Business:* None

The meeting adjourned at **3:58pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Duff  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

David Carlston  
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

Next Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting: September 1, at 3pm, in the PY Staff Lounge.

Next Faculty Senate Meeting: September 8, 2016, at 3pm, in Dillard 189.