

MSU Faculty Senate

December 2016 Minutes

The 2016-2017 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **December 8, 2016**, in the **Legacy Hall Multipurpose Room**. Senators present included Charles Bultena, Jeremy Duff, David Carlston, Phillip Wilson, Catherine Gaharan, Kym Acuña, Jeff Killion, Rodney Fisher, Debra Kelly, Ben Atkins, Victoria Sanders, Jennifer Anderson, Beverly Stiles, Charles Watson, Raymond Willis, Jonathan Price, Salim Azzouz, Nathan Jun, Yvonne Franke, and Andrew Allen. Guests in attendance were Staff Senate Representative Johnna Lynn Weigand, Associate Vice President of Undergraduate Education and Assessment Dr. Kristen Garrison, Bookstore Manager Jenny Denning, and PC/Network Services Manager Jim Hall.

Housekeeping:

Approval of the minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously with no amendments.

Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Current Business:

1. Associate Vice President of Undergraduate Education and Assessment Dr. Kristen Garrison addressed the Senate in regards to the First Year Experience. Dr. Garrison presented a draft proposal of a model for the structure of the First Year Experience (FYE). A link to this can be found on the Faculty Senate Website and will also be on the website for the FYE. They are trying to connect the design of the FYE to the University's Strategic Plan. The committee working on the proposal is comprised of stake-holders from all across the University. The proposal emphasizes two elements: 1) the University's COPLAC mission and 2) the University's Undergraduate Research Initiative. In order to promote these, the committee desires to first make effective use of resources already available on campus and wants to make reasonable demands on faculty. They want the FYE to be a "dynamic learning experience." Dr. Garrison stated that many of the FYE objectives are already embedded in the core requirements. A key part of the proposed model is introducing undergraduate research in the 2nd semester academic seminar.

Senator Allen asked if the FYE was intended to "bind students socially or academically." Dr. Garrison answered that the goal was to bind students academically. The skills being taught help them make more explicit what is happening in their learning. She also stated that part of the FYE is to "dissolve barriers between disciplines" which is a purely academic.

Senator Allen also asked if there will be a set sequence of skills, abilities, or learning outcomes for all students who go through the FYE. Dr. Garrison stated that there would

be, but they have not formulated the specific questions to ask students. She stated that Student Success is working on this.

2. Jenny Denning, manager of the MSU Bookstore addressed the Senate about book adoptions. First, she wanted to tell the Faculty “Thank You.” The bookstore is at the “best place they have ever been” with book adoptions for Spring 2017. They had 98.7% of book adoptions submitted at the time of the meeting. She asked that the Faculty go online or check the bookstore to make sure the correct books are listed for their classes. She also stated that going forward there will be much fewer books on the actual shelves, but they will always get a book into the hands of the students.
3. Dr. Kristen Garrison again addressed the Senate. This time she discussed the Financial Aid and Admissions Task Force (FAATF). The FAATF has begun their work by evaluating admissions categories and then defining admissions categories. They are looking at how Admissions decides to accept students into the University. It appears that right now the main criteria is GPA. Ultimately, they want to help increase enrollment at MSU without lowering the quality of students that we accept. They are looking at how to better support students who may be underprepared as they enter the University. They are also looking at financial aid and how to leverage that to attract better students. However, they do not have much wiggle room. There are 10-12 merit scholarships they are looking at eliminating in order to funnel money into other scholarship that can attract good students who like to be involved and engaged in the University. Right now merit scholarships are awarded solely on test scores. They are also looking at attaching “strings” to scholarships.

Finally Dr. Garrison stated that the committee is pushing for a tutoring center.

The members of the FAATF are: Kristen Garrison, Gayonne Beavers, Kathy Pennartz-Browning, Denise Simmons, Jessyca Wagner, Julie Wood, Mark McClendon, Magaly Rincon-Zachary, and Dave Carlston. Please share with them your concerns or thoughts on these areas.

4. Chair Carlston addressed the Senate on SB 20. Dr. Shipley has been very responsive to the concerns of the faculty. The Faculty Senate is writing the portions of the policy that involve Faculty. They plan to have a draft by January. Dr. Shipley would like to present the entire policy to the Board of Regents at the May 2017 meeting.
5. Chair Carlston addressed the Senate about the search for a new Provost. Dr. Shipley does not have anyone in mind for the position. There will be an open, national search. Two faculty members from Business and Education were chosen to serve on the search committee: Dr. Kym Acuña from Education and Dr. Ron Young from Business.
6. Jim Hall from Information Technology addressed the Senate in regards to the new IT policies. He stated that right now, the MSU policy for IT is one single page. The Texas Administrative Code contains six rules that technology in higher education must be run. Therefore, MSU has to develop an IT policy that fits with these six rules. He presented

drafts of the policies, but stated that these were preliminary. The draft policies are largely based on the policies from Appalachian State University. However, Mr. Hall indicated that the standards we are trying to adhere to are national standards. Faculty are encouraged to look at the policy drafts and discuss any concerns or comments you have with your senator. The Faculty Senate recommended that there be some kind of training put into place to make Faculty aware of how these policies work.

7. Senator Duff informed the Senate that he has been appointed the University's SACSCOC Liaison. If you have any SACSCOC related questions please direct them to him.
8. Senator Jun addressed the Senate about the Honors Program. Dr. Samuel Watson is the new coordinator of the Honors Program. Dr. Watson is looking at starting a Phi Beta Kappa Chapter at MSU. However, in order to do so, at least 10% of Faculty at MSU have to be members of Phi Beta Kappa. By looking at CVs that are posted, Dr. Watson found that there are not enough members on campus to begin a chapter. However, some Faculty may have not included this on their CVs, so Dr. Jun asked that any faculty members who are members of Phi Beta Kappa please include this on your CV.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Carlston): No report
2. Board of Regents (Carlston): No report
3. Financial Aid and Admissions Task Force: Discussed above
4. Summer School Advisory Committee: No report
5. Academic Council (Fidelie): No report
6. Student Affairs and Enrollment Management: No report
7. Strategic Planning Committee (Killion): No report
8. Budget Oversight Committee (Stiles): Will not meet until spring.
9. Student Success Committee (Franke): Discussed briefly above
10. First Year Seminar: Discussed above
11. Fair Labor Standards Act: No report
12. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has a balance of \$857.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

The meeting adjourned at **4:29 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Duff
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

David Carlston
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

Next Meetings:

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10, in PY Lounge.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, in Dillard 189.