

MSU Faculty Senate

January 2016 Minutes

The 2015-2016 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **January 14, 2016**, in **Dillard 189**. Senators present included Charles Bultena, Laura Fidelie, Jeremy Duff, David Carlston, Bradley Wilson, Jonathan Price, Ray Willis, Phil Wilson, Suzanne Lindt, Kym Acuña, Ben Atkins, Rodney Fisher, Beverly Stiles, Jennifer Anderson, Matthew Luttrell, Gordon Hicken, Vicki Sanders, Lucy Schultz, Sheldon Wang, Ray Willis, and Lauren Jansen. Also in attendance were Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Keith Lamb, Angie Reay from the Staff Senate, and Director of Admissions, Gayonne Beavers.

Current Business:

1. The Faculty Senate unanimously approved the minutes from the November 2015 meeting.
2. Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Keith Lamb, addressed the Senate in regards to a possible University policy on the use of “hoverboards.” Dr. Lamb stated that there has been an increase in the use of these on campus, and he expects more students to return with these after the winter break. The University has two concerns with these: 1) riding them in buildings and 2) the possibility they can catch on fire. He presented a draft of a proposed amendment to the university policy on skateboards. That policy can be viewed online at: <http://www.mwsu.edu/assets/documents/police/traffic-vehicle-regulations.pdf>. The suggested amendment to the policy would include this clause:

Mini Segway (Hoverboard): Registered students may use mini segways as a means of transportation in outdoor areas on the Midwestern State University campus. A person on a mini segway is considered to be a pedestrian and must comply with Texas Transportation Code sections that relate to pedestrian traffic. Mini segways may not be present or stored in university housing facilities.

Dr. Lamb noted that some universities have banned these devices altogether, while others have banned them within dormitories or buildings. The Faculty Senate recommended the policy include language that bans them indoors, does not allow charging indoors, and does not allow students to leave them unattended.

3. Senator Bradley Wilson asked Dr. Lamb whether any progress had been made on enforcing the University smoking policy. Dr. Lamb stated that this was “still in the queue.”
4. Dr. Lamb discussed the possible DFW Extension. He noted that this is evolving fairly rapidly. They are specifically looking at NW Fort Worth. This is the most rapidly

growing area and is currently “underserved.” The University has put together a subcommittee that has made recommendations for programs to be offered through the extension. They are aiming for programs that will be attractive to potential students who are 25 years of age or older. They do not want to offer programs that will “cannibalize” this campus. Specifically, they are looking at 12-13 possible programs. They have hired a market research firm who is tasked with identifying the demand for these programs, and who might suggest others based on their research. This process should take about three months to complete. They have already looked at some possible sites and plan to lease a property. They believe it will primarily focus on B.A.A.S. programs, some health science, and graduate programs in education and business administration. Other benefits of the extension would be to increase University branding in that geographical area, and it would also provide office space for admissions staff, including one person who is already working in the DFW area full-time. They additionally believe it will increase revenue for the University.

5. Director of Admissions, Gayonne Beavers, reported that the state legislature passed Senate Bill 1543 in the last session mandating that institutions of higher education assign students who have been home-schooled and students from high schools that do not rank their students, a class rank to consider them for admission. Midwestern will compare standardized test scores and class ranks from the previous year to assign these students a class rank. This does not apply to many students and this is similar to what other universities are doing.
6. Chair Carlston addressed the Senate in regards to the number of students who are being admitted to the University under advised admissions. Currently almost half of incoming freshmen are under advised admissions. The Faculty Senate recommended that the Board of Regents track students coming into MWSU through advised admissions by including the percentage of advised admission students in the “dashboard” that is presented to the Board of Regents at their meetings. These students need more support and there is concern among the faculty that the overall quality of students is dropping because of the emphasis on enrollment.
7. The Faculty Senate voted to add two members to the University Budget Oversight Committee. The two members chosen were Beverly Stiles and Vicki Sanders.
8. *Committee and Other Reports:*
 - Administrative Council (Carlston): No report.
 - Academic Council (Fidelie): No Report.
 - Board of Regents (Carlston): No Report.
 - First-Year Seminar Task Force: They have not met since the last Faculty Senate meeting. Dr. Carlston indicated that his impression is that there is no rush to get this instituted by

the fall. If it is not ready, then for the fall, the University will emphasize the use of learning communities.

Student Affairs (Lindt): No Report.

Finances (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$1430.00

New Business: Staff Senate Representative Angie Reay distributed a list of areas on which members of the Student Affairs staff could discuss in classes in lieu of giving a walk should a faculty member need to be absent. This list has been posted under the minutes for this month on the Faculty Senate webpage.

Some faculty expressed concern about overlapping final exams. This concern has been passed on to Provost Betty Stewart.

Some faculty expressed concern about the days leading up to the Thanksgiving Break and some faculty canceling classes before Thanksgiving. The University's expectation is that the days prior to the break are class days and faculty should not cancel those classes. This should be handled through their respective chairs and deans.

Old Business: None

The meeting adjourned at **4:20pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Duff
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

David Carlston
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

Next Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting: February 8, 2016, in the PY Staff Lounge.
Next Faculty Senate Meeting: February 11, 2016, in CSC Kiowa.