

MSU Faculty Senate

January 2015 Minutes

The 2014-2015 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **January 15**, in **Dillard 189**. Senators present included Barbara DeBois, Bradley Wilson, Chuck Bultena, David Carlston (*chair*), Greg Giddings, Jane Leach, Jennifer Gresham, Jonathan Price, Lauren Jansen, Phil Wilson, Ruth Morrow, Sheldon Wang, Stu McClintock, Ted Paddack, Tommye Hutson, Vicki Sanders. Guests attending were Student Government Representative Joseph Hadwal, Staff Senate Representative Newman Wong, and Director of Budget and Management Valerie Maxwell.

Current Business:

1. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the minutes from the November 2014 Faculty Senate meeting and voted to approve the current agenda.
2. Budget Hearing and Budget Process — Valerie Maxwell, director of budget and management

This is a legislative year. The legislature started Jan. 13 and runs through June 1. Budget worksheets will go out in mid-February. We will receive money from general appropriations that should be approved in May. Tuition/fee rates will be set in May. We will submit the budget to the Board for approval in August, a budget that will total about \$100 million. Overall, about 20 percent of the budget is funded by the state. We have about \$36 million total in our endowment.

Budget presentations will be Jan. 26-27 beginning at 8:15 a.m. in Dillard 189. They are open to the campus community. Visit <http://www.mwsu.edu/adminfinance/budget/> for the presentations. On Jan. 26, support staff and academic support will present their plans. Jan. 27, each academic dean will have 45 minutes or so to discuss enrollment, faculty, needs, etc. What do they see coming? We want to hear what challenges the deans are facing. How can we be cost effective?

Salary compensation study — We need to make sure we have all of our jobs classified correctly. We also need to address equity issues across campus. Are the same jobs being classified similarly? We have 198 staff members that make less than \$30,000/year. If minimum wage goes up those salaries will have to increase.

The state legislative budget process starts with a revenue estimate — \$113 billion, almost \$11 billion more than two years ago. Because our enrollment is growing and other institutions in Texas are growing and state funding is based on enrollment (semester hours), we could still be losing money if we don't grow. The state formula recommends a 7 percent increase or about \$500,000 increase for us. The Higher Education Coordinating Board recommended \$200 million statewide for performance-based funding. We might receive some monies from this as well.

The Hazelwood Act (<http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Hazlewood-Act.aspx>) provided exemptions for veterans, their spouses and their dependent children for up to 150 hours of tuition and fees. Five or six years ago, this cost MSU \$200,000. This year, we budgeted for \$1.4 million. It will cost MSU more than \$2 million next year and we don't expect any compensation from the state. The costs for this are passed along to other students.

Higher Education Assistance Funds are appropriated based on enrollment — 6,043 students when set last. Most likely HEAF funds will drop. Permanent University Funds continue to grow but we don't get any access to those funds. We're hoping HEAF funds stay flat.

Group health insurance will cost MSU \$5.3 million this year.

Tuition revenue bond — We requested \$73 million to help fund a long list of projects including a new health sciences building, refurbishing buildings including Moffett Library, Hardin and Bolin as well as upgrading technology.

3. No Smoking Campus — Marco Torres and Joseph Hadwal

Are we really a smoke-free campus?

The two, representing Student Government, recommended that we begin imposing fines for smoking on campus to make the current policy enforceable. (<http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/recsports/tobacco>)

The two recommended supporting a campus citation of \$25 to be enforced by Campus Police and residence hall directors. The money would be used to support smoking cessation programs through the Student Health Center.

Motion: The Faculty Senate continues discussion toward writing a joint resolution with the Student Senate regarding making the current policy regarding Use of Tobacco Products enforceable.

The students had not yet met with the chief of police.

There are alternatives. We could totally ban smoking on campus. We could adopt a policy similar to that approved by the City of Wichita Falls. (Chapter 58 of the Code of Ordinances, Article IV, <http://www.wichitafallstx.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/418>)

Torres said this was a question of integrity for the students. We have a policy that isn't being enforced.

Faculty members asked questions, including:

- How are you going to enforce it?
- Who is going to enforce it?
- What would be the impact on enrollment?
- Have we looked at having a place or two on campus for smokers?

Motion passed with one, Jane Leach, opposed. Bradley Wilson volunteered to work with the students to draft a resolution to present at the Faculty Senate at a future meeting.

4. Selection of Representatives

Admissions Committee: Bethany Wendall goes off committee since she no longer works for MSU. Also need an alternate. After some discussion, Faculty Senate recommended Catherine Rudy, academic adviser in the College of Health Sciences and Human Services, and Lindsay Robinson, academic adviser in the College of Education.

Faculty Appreciation for Jesse Rogers: Staff in the Office of the President have asked to have a faculty member to help plan this event. Faculty Senate suggested Ruth Morrow and chair will check with her.

Celebration of Scholarship Committee: Stuart McClintock volunteered for this committee.

5. Committee and Other Reports:

Academic Readmissions: David Carlston reported that they are seeing a significant increase in the number of students carrying Ds and Fs from semester to semester. He suggested faculty advise these students to retake courses.

Presidential Search: David Carlston reported that the deadline for applications was Jan. 12 and said there was a robust pool.

Finances: Charles Bultena reported that we had about \$2,030 in account with plenty of money to send two or three people to Texas Council of Faculty Senates, Feb. 28-March 1 in Austin (<http://www.txfacultyssenates.org/>).

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Announcements: None

The meeting adjourned at **4:15pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Duff (written by Bradley Wilson)
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

David Carlston
Chairman of the Faculty Senate