

MSU Faculty Senate

January 2014 Minutes

The 2013-2014 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **January 9, 2014**, in **Dillard 189**. Senators present included Terry McDonald, Laura Fidelie, Gary Morrison, Ted Paddack, Kathy Roberts, Charles Bultena, Jim Owen, Ruth Morrow, David Carlston, Jeremy Duff, Sally Henschel, Stuart McClintock, Suzanne Lindt, Julie Wood, Jon Scales, Jackie Dunn, Jon Price, Jane Leach, Phillip Wilson, Terry Griffin, and Kirsten Lodge (for Nathan Jun). Visitors in attendance were University President Jesse Rogers.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

The minutes of the **November 2013 Meeting** were unanimously approved.

Current Business:

1. University President Jesse Rogers spoke to the Senate about dual/concurrent enrollment online courses for high school students. The University of Texas at Permian Basin recently sent out information to high schools, including those in the Wichita Falls area, offering dual/concurrent enrollment online classes to students for \$150 per class. Dr. Rogers reported to the Senate that after speaking with the College Deans, the Provost, and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, that all were in agreement that MSU would not be offering the same program. Collectively, it was deemed unfair to ask the Distance Education students at MSU to pay full price for a course that a high school student would be paying \$150 for. He also noted that after speaking with administrators at the local high schools, they also did not support the program.

Additionally, Dr. Rogers addressed the Senate about the Distance Education program at MSU, in general. He stated that he believes that MSU chooses its distance education audience well. He also noted that MSU will be starting a new Masters of Criminal Justice program that will be offered online, along with a new design for the M.B.A. program that will also include online components. MSU is also attempting to raise the total number of online courses being offered.

Senator Owen asked Dr. Rogers if MSU would be obligated to accept the credit hours a high school student might have earned by participating in UTPB's \$150 program. Dr. Rogers indicated that because UTPB is an accredited institution, MSU would be required by law to accept those credits for transfer.

Dr. Rogers also addressed the Senate about Campus Planning. Campus planners have been assessing the MSU campus and have noted that there is "too much asphalt." Therefore, they have submitted plans that would move some of the parking lots away from major buildings, and Dr. Rogers noted that the MSU Board of Regents is ready to "accept the idea of a parking garage" on campus. Additionally, long-term plans include ideas for MSU playing fields, adjusting for the affects of the local climate (such as water

shortages), and recommendation for placing new dorms as the number of out-of-town students continues to grow.

Dr. Rogers indicated to the Senate that he would soon provide a report on enrollment for the Fall 2014 semester.

Finally, Dr. Rogers mentioned that he has spoken with a number of Honors students enrolled in the MSU Leadership class and they had indicated a preference for a Fall Break. He asked the Senate to consider that option and what it might entail.

2. Terry McDonald motioned to consider a Full-Time Faculty Employee Tuition Incentive Program. Terry Griffin seconded the motion. After discussion the motion was amended and reads as follows:

FULL-TIME FACULTY EMPLOYEE TUITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

A. General

MSU full-time faculty employees are encouraged to pursue life-long learning while at the university, and a Full-Time Faculty Employee Tuition Incentive Program is maintained to assist them in this regard. Under the program, employees should pay Texas resident tuition and course-related fees and the following fees should be waived: Student Service Fee, Recreational Center Fee, Student Union/Center Fee, Athletic Fee and the University Service Fee. Also, under the program employees may be reimbursed up to the cost of tuition and course-related fees.

B. Program Administration

Guidelines for the program are as follows:

1. All full-time faculty members in retirement eligible positions are eligible to apply.
2. Eligible full-time faculty employees may enroll in:
 - a. A maximum of six (6) hours each fall and spring semesters
 - b. A maximum of three (3) hours during each of the summer termsParticipation will be limited to not more than eighteen (18) credit hours per fiscal year. All courses will be taken at times that do not conflict with the employee's teaching schedule.
3. To be eligible, a person must be a full-time faculty member at the beginning of the course and upon completion of the course.
4. Only credit courses taken at MSU are included in the program.
5. Eligible full-time faculty employees wishing to participate in the incentive program shall complete and submit the Full-Time Faculty Tuition Incentive Program Application form to the Human Resources Department by the date of the relevant semester's final day of registration.
6. The Human Resources Department will coordinate the incentive program. In order to enroll, an employee must first obtain the approval of his or her immediate supervisor. By signing the Full-Time Faculty Tuition Incentive Program Application form, the supervisor will inform the Director of Human Resources of his/her approval for the employee to enroll for course work in the incentive program.
7. At the end of each semester, the financial incentive will be calculated in the following manner: At the end of the semester, by dividing the cost of resident tuition and fees as provided each semester by the Business Office (course fees not included) for each course taken by an employee and dividing by twelve (12) to determine the amount to be awarded for each grade point. The result will then be multiplied by the total number of grade points earned by the employee in that course to determine the amount of the award. In the event the total amount of money allocated for the Full-Time Faculty Tuition Incentive Program is not sufficient to cover costs using this formula (and additional funds are not available), awards will be determined by calculating what percentage each employee would have received of the total and multiplying the actual amount of funds available by that percentage. In no case will the reimbursement exceed actual tuition and fee costs incurred for the course taken under the program.

8. At the end of the semester, the Human Resources Department will verify each enrolled employee's grade(s) on hours passed (up to a maximum of six [6] semester hours) and will determine the amount of the reimbursement due to each individual.
9. Checks will be disbursed to the employee after each semester, unless the employee has an outstanding balance with the university. In such case the funds will be credited to the employee's outstanding balance.
10. Because of the necessity to make the necessary calculations and issue checks at the end of the semester, incomplete grades will not be subject to payment.

The motion was agreed to unanimously.

3. The Faculty Senate discussed a request from the MSU Board of Regents that a faculty member attend each Board of Regents meeting and provide a brief presentation about their research or teaching. After discussion it was agreed that each college would rotate through the three meetings of the Board throughout the academic year (the August, November, and February meetings) and offer an individual to present from the college whose turn it is in the rotation. It was also agreed that the winner of the Faculty Award would present each year at the May meeting of the Board of Regents. Ruth Morrow, from the Fain College of Fine Arts, agreed to present at the February 2014 meeting.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Carlston): No Report
2. Board of Regents (Carlston): No Report
3. Academic Council (Fidelie): Academic Council met on December 18. We approved several catalog changes and changes to degree plans due to the changing core curriculum.
4. Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Lindt): Those interested in participating in a focus group for improving dining services for faculty should contact Senator Lindt at: Suzanne.lindt@mwsu.edu so that I can pass their information to the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Council. The focus group will discuss the possibility of creating a faculty dining plan and contracts with food vendors.
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Paddack): No Report
6. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$1655.

New Business:

Laura Fidelie informed the Senate that during one of the recent days that campus had been closed due to inclement weather, the Wellness Center remained open. A student worker, who lives off campus, was told that he HAD to attend work that day. On the way to work he was involved in an accident that resulted in him flipping his car. Senator Lindt indicated that she would discuss this situation with the Committee on Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. Chair Carlston stated that he would also address the issue with the Administrative Council.

Old Business: none

Announcements: none

The meeting adjourned at **4:13pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Duff
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

David Carlston
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, **February 6**, in Apache CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, **February 13**, in Kiowa, CSC.