

# MSU Faculty Senate

## March 2015 Minutes

The 2014-2015 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **March 12**, in **CSC Kiowa**. Senators present included Terry Griffin, Stuart McClintock, Greg Giddings, Jonathan Price, Ted Paddock, Jennifer Anderson, Vicki Sanders, Laura Fidelie, Barbara DuBois, Jane Leach, Charles Bultena, David Carlston, Chris Stovall and Jeremy Duff. Guests present were University President, Dr. Jesse Rogers, Vice President of Business Affairs and Finance, Dr. Marilyn Fowlé, and Angie Reay (Staff Senate Representative).

### *Current Business:*

1. University President Dr. Jesse Rogers addressed the Senate. Dr. Rogers acknowledged the work of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and commended them on a job well done.

Additionally, Dr. Rogers discussed the financial future of the University. He stated that the attitude in Austin has changed some with the dropping of oil prices, but that they have not taken their eye off of higher education. He stated that in the first legislative bill, that included the University's request for a tuition revenue bond, the amount for the bond was \$58 million, rather than the \$73 million the University had initially requested. He later stated that MSU will not know about the results of the tuition revenue bond until May.

Dr. Rogers stated, "We do not need things and stuff nearly as much as we need operational funding." In regards to this he mentioned that we need to be able to hire more faculty and we need money for faculty salaries and raises.

He noted that there is legislation pending in Austin that could result in new money for the University for the first time in a long time.

He also stated that the University has been using "soft" money that had been donated to the University to plug holes in the budget, but that money will be coming to an end soon. In response to a question about this, Dr. Rogers explained that this money was in the form of one-time gifts that once spent would be finished.

He stated that Austin is working on formulating outcome based funding that would add more weight to "at-risk" students. A large portion of our students are considered "at-risk" and if this program were to be fully funded the University could see an additional \$2 million in funding.

There is also a bill pending that recommends a 50% increase in HEAF funding. MSU would see an extra \$1 million if this were passed.

He also mentioned that the legislature is considering re-introducing the “Small School Supplement” and MSU could see some extra funding from that.

There has been a bill introduced to repeal the part of the Hazelwood Act that provides tuition assistance to legacies. This might save MSU money on these students, but might also cost MSU enrollment from a decline in these students.

Dr. Rogers stated that he “feels good” about all this.

Dr. Carlston asked if there were any bills in the legislature that might hurt us. Dr. Rogers said, “no” unless the legislature decided to not add money to HEAF and then our piece would decrease about \$200,000.

On other issues, Dr. Rogers said that the University needs to work on some intermediary changes to parking on campus. He stated that there are ways that MSU can provide more off-campus parking to staff and commuters that would be relatively low-cost. He said that if we have to raise tuition (administration hasn’t decided yet) they would need to focus money on faculty/staff raises and things like parking.

He also noted that students want “us” to raise intramural and athletic facility fees in order to fund artificial turf for a new soccer field and free play field. This would increase fees by \$6 per credit hour.

2. Vice President of Business Affairs and Finance, Dr. Marilyn Fowlé addressed the Senate. She provided the Senate with copies of the budget summary she supplies to the Board of Regents. The entire document will be available in the Board of Regents Agenda from now on.

On the MSU Budget, she stated that there were no surprises on the December report she provided to the Board of Regents. So far everything is balancing out well.

Dr. Fowlé stated that the next budget should be set by the August Board of Regents meeting.

Dr. Fowlé also provided, at the request of the Senate, an analysis of summer school enrollment and spending since the passage of the Faculty Salary Enhancement Plan. The report details how much the State considers in formula funding for summer classes and then what the University has spent in salary and FICA/Retirement payments on those courses. The entire report has been placed on the Faculty Senate website.

3. The Faculty Senate voted on a resolution in regards to the pending legislation in the Texas Legislature that deals with Campus Carry. After much debate the following resolution was agreed upon unanimously:

Be it RESOLVED that the Midwestern State University Faculty Senate supports the current state policy prohibiting the possession of firearms on campus and

opposes any legislation that would preempt an educational institution's right to prohibit or adopt policies to regulate possession of firearms on campus.

Be it further RESOLVED that the Midwestern State University Faculty Senate encourages the Legislature of the State of Texas to continue giving high priority to campus safety and to support this priority with additional resources to allow for continued improvements that will aid campuses in their efforts to maintain safety and security.

And, finally, be it resolved that Midwestern State University continue to actively evaluate the risk and vulnerability of all individuals on campus, soliciting feedback from all campus constituents and continue to aggressively work to further increase safety on campus.

4. The Faculty Senate voted on a resolution asking the University Administration to consider placing door viewers in the doors of faculty offices that do not already have one. The resolution is posted below. It was agreed upon unanimously.

WHEREAS the Midwestern State University Faculty Senate is concerned for safety of all parties on campus (i.e., students, faculty, staff, visitors), and

The Midwestern State University Faculty Senate RECOMMENDS that wide-angle door viewers be installed in all windowless staff and faculty doors.

5. *Committee and Other Reports:*

Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Paddack): Senator Paddack stated that MSU spends the least, by far, of any Lone Star Conference school on its athletic departments. The IAC would like to see this increased. He would like to see the Faculty Senate express its support for Athletics as they are a major part of the recognition the University receives.

Beginning with academic year 2018, requirements for athletes transferring to MSU will raise from a 2.0 GPA to a 2.2 GPA. Beginning August 2016, the number of credit hours student athletes must pass to be eligible each semester after freshman year is also going to increase from 6 credits to 9 credits each semester. Transfers who are arriving with only one semester completed can transfer with 12 total hours. Those who have completed 2 or more semesters must have completed at least 6 hours of English and 3 hours of Math. For transfers with two full semesters already, after August 2016, they also must have completed 3 hours of transferable science, besides the 6 hours of English and 3 hours of Math.

Finances: Dr. Bultena reported that we have about \$1730 in our account.

*New Business:* The Faculty Senate asks the faculty to think about how we can move forward with the new president. Dr. Carlston also emphasized that the Board of Regents took

recommendations from the Search Committee very strongly and that we should continue building a strong relationship with the Board of Regents.

*Old Business:* None

*Announcements:* Dr. McClintock announced the Celebration of Scholarship that will take place April 28-30. This is a forum for all members of the University to make presentation on research, creative projects, etc. The applications to submit proposals or abstracts are online at [www.mwsu.edu/cos](http://www.mwsu.edu/cos).

The meeting adjourned at **4:45 pm**.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Duff  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

David Carlston  
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

Next Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting: April 7, 2015, in Apache CSC

Next Faculty Senate Meeting: April 9, 2015, in Kiowa CSC