

MSU Faculty Senate

March 2014 Minutes

The 2013-2014 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **March 13, 2014**, in **Kiowa CSC**. Senators present included Jackie Dunn, Terry McDonald, Jon Price, Jane Leach, Barbara Dubois, Laura Fidelie, Gary Morrison, Ted Paddock, Kathy Roberts, Charles Bultena, Jim Owen, Alan Black, Ruth Morrow, David Carlston, Jeremy Duff, Sally Henschel, Stuart McClintock, and Julie Wood. Also present were Vice President for Business Affairs and Finance Marilyn Fowle', Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Keith Lamb, and Staff Senate Representative Angie Reay.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

The minutes of the **February 2014 Meeting** were approved with the following change:

The section that reads:

Three actionable items were resolved and agreed upon by all present:

- 1) An annual meeting between the Faculty Senate and the upper administration of the university will be held each year to review future survey results and establish a cooperative agenda for the year.
- 2) Faculty members will be provided access to the Annual Financial Reports prepared by Dr. Fowlé for the Board of Regents. **Dr. Stewart said she would provide the Faculty Senate** with a document showing the actual budget expenditures for each academic year.
- 3) The Provost will notify the Senate of all ad hoc committees formed by her office so that the Faculty Senate can be involved in the process and assist in dissemination of the activities of the committee.

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Current Business:

1. Vice President for Business Affairs and Finance, Dr. Marilyn Fowle', presented information on the Fixed Rate Tuition Plan that the University plans to begin implementing Fall 2014. Texas House Bill 29 requires that each Texas University offer a fixed rate tuition plan. The idea is to allow parents/students to be able to budget for a four-year degree without worrying about changing tuition costs. The MSU plan is mandatory. The base designated tuition rate will be increased in order to adjust for the fixed rate plan; however, the increases (which will vary according to class level) will range from 2.2% to 6.7%, which is moderate compared to the level other peer institutions are raising their tuition rates. Total tuition and fee increase for next year will be 4.5% to 6.5% depending on the class level.

Chair Carlston asked Dr. Fowle' when the report on actual budget expenditures that was discussed at the October 22, 2013 special meeting, might be available. Dr. Fowle' said that the reports for the previous year are usually finished in November, and she would be happy to present that information to the Faculty Senate next fall.

Senator McClintock asked Dr. Fowle' about a concern involving summer pay. A colleague asked him to bring up the fact that the method for determining summer pay "discriminates" against employees that were hired after the Faculty Salary Enhancement Plan was implemented. Dr. Fowle' stated that originally it was planned the summer pay method would be revisited after two summers and said that she thought we could do that very soon.

Chair Carlston asked Dr. Fowle' about the proposed Faculty Tuition Plan. He specifically stated that Dr. Rogers had indicated to him in an e-mail that one of the things being considered was how to handle "mandatory fees" for faculty attempting to take advantage of the plan. Chair Carlston wanted to know if Dr. Fowle' knew which fees Dr. Rogers was referring to. She said she did not, but would look into it.

2. Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Dr. Keith Lamb, gave a presentation that provided a great deal of information on the Fall 2013 Freshman class. The following is a list of key points from that presentation:
 - a. 817 students total made up the class.
 - b. 56% were female, 43% were male. Over 99% of them are considered "traditional" students.
 - c. 55% were white, 15% were African-American, 20% were Hispanic. This is a larger percentage of Hispanics compared to Wichita County.

- d. 37% came from the DFW area. 25% came from Wichita County. 5% came from Houston. 98% of the students were full-time.
- e. Due to the large size of the class, there was a larger number of students from both the bottom half and top half of their respective high schools than usual. Proportionally, there were more from the bottom half than is typical.
- f. 40% were on advised admission.
- g. The fall-to-fall retention rate from the Fall 2012 class was 68%. The average fall-to-fall retention rate since 1990 has been right at 68%. 91% of the Fall 2013 class enrolled in Spring 2014. This is high for MSU.
- h. 71% of MSU's prospect pool (50,000+ students) had never heard of MSU before being contacted by the University.

Additionally, Dr. Lamb presented data from a survey of 514 of these freshman students. The survey was able to compare our students to students at peer institutions. Below are some key points taken from the results of that survey:

- a. Our students come from further away than students at peer institutions.
- b. 25% of our students ONLY applied to MSU, while 13% of students at peer institutions only applied to that particular institution.
- c. For 68% of those students, MSU was their FIRST choice.
- d. Our students pay for college with more scholarships and grants than students at peer institutions.
- e. Most of our students plan to max their education at the bachelor's degree level.

At the end of the presentation, Chair Carlston asked if Dr. Lamb could provide the Faculty Senate with the retention rate of students who attended summer school. Dr. Lamb indicated he would look into it and provide the Senate with that information.

- 3. The Faculty Senate discussed the Faculty Satisfaction Survey. It was determined that the survey would be sent out in late March and that Vice Chair Fidelie would put together a cover letter for Senators to use to announce the survey in their colleges.
- 4. Senator Roberts moved to un-table the Senate's previous discussion about a Committee on Committees. The motion was unanimously agreed upon. After discussion Senator Roberts moved to create an ad-hoc committee to review the Senate's by-laws and committee structure and then make recommendations to the Senate. This motion was unanimously agreed to. Chair Carlston, Vice Chair Fidelie, and Senator Roberts agreed to serve on the committee.
- 5. The Faculty Senate discussed the Faculty Tuition Incentive Program. Chair Carlston indicated that Dr. Rogers would meet with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee at their next meeting in order to further discuss this.

Committee and Other Reports:

- 1. Administrative Council (Carlston): No Report

2. Board of Regents (Carlston): No Report

3. Academic Council (Fidelie): In the February Academic Council meeting, several catalog changes were approved and they discussed the advising process for upcoming semesters. The advising process will be somewhat complicated due to two different University cores running simultaneously. The Registrar's office has scheduled advising workshops to help explain the process. Faculty members are encouraged to attend.

4. Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Lindt): At the last meeting, Senator Lindt brought up the issue about requiring students to drive to on-campus jobs during bad weather and university closings. Both housing and the wellness center stated that their policy is to stay open when the university is closed, but they only require that those living on campus come to work. Therefore, their current policy is that they do NOT require students to drive in the bad weather.

5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Paddock): Due to time considerations, Senator Paddock stated he would provide a report during the next Senate meeting.

6. Other Active Committee Reports: The Senate discussed the ongoing tasks of the College Rank and Tenure Committee. As it stands now, Provost Stewart will meet with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, at their April meeting, to discuss the most current version of the Tenure and Promotion Revised Plan.

7. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$1655.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Announcements: Senator Duff mentioned that he had been asked by Andrea Williams in the MSU Library to bring the Senate's attention to the Library's new Moffett Library Research Award. Undergraduate students are encouraged to submit their research projects for the award, which includes a \$300 grand prize and two \$125 additional prizes.

The meeting adjourned at **5:10pm**.

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 Tuesday, **April 8th**, in Apache, CSC.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 PM on Thursday, **April 10th**, in Kiowa, CSC.