

MSU Faculty Senate

October 2017 Minutes

The 2017-2018 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **October 12, 2017**, in **Wichita I and II**.

Senators present:

Kym Acuña	Attapol Kuanliang	Jonathan Price
Jennifer Anderson	Adam Lei	(substituting, College of
Chuck Bultena	Matthew Luttrell	Science and Math)
David Carlston	Christie Maturo	Vicki Sanders
Jeremy Duff	(substituting for Jonathon	Linda Veazey
Rodney Fisher	Quam, Fain College of	Matt Watson
Yvonne Franke	Fine Arts)	Lynette Watts
Catherine Gaharan	Stacia Miller	Bradley Wilson

Staff Senate Representative: Courtney Snyder

Guests:

Greg Giddings, Faculty Athletic Representative
Melissa Nivens, Writing Proficiency Administrator

Call to order: 3:00 PM

Housekeeping:

Approval of Minutes

The October 2017 Minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Current Business:

1. Athletics Priority Registration (Greg Giddings, Faculty Athletic Representative)

Dr. Giddings presented a proposal that student athletes be given priority registration, meaning all student athletes at MSU would be able to begin registering for classes on the first day of registration each term.

Rationales for Proposal:

- All other members of MSU's athletic conference, the Lone Star Conference, grant student-athletes priority registration.
- Allowing student-athletes priority registration would reduce conflicts between courses and the athletic travel schedule (e.g. registering for a Tuesday/Thursday section of a course instead of a Monday/Wednesday/Friday when the athletic team travel schedule includes multiple Fridays).
- As an NCAA Division II institution, MSU student-athletes primarily receive partial scholarships. MSU has 321 student-athletes, with 21% of male student-athletes and 17% of total student-athletes receiving no scholarship money. Priority registration is a benefit we can offer them.

Senator Gaharan moves the motion to the floor and it is then opened for discussion.

Questions and Points Raised During Discussion:

- The MSU band also travels with student-athletes, if this proposal adopted, should band members receive priority registration?
- Would priority registration be only for the semester in which the athletic team competes?
- How would student groups not receiving priority registration feel about this benefit for student-athletes?
- How many student athletes currently register when their registration period opens and are unable to register for their planned course schedule?
- How many of the 321 athletes are seniors and/or Honors Program students, thus unaffected by any registration date change.
- What is the breakdown of student-athletes by year/level and by gender? Data provided lists 115 women and 206 men as student athletes, meaning approximately 35% female and 65% male.
- What do other COPLAC institutions do in regard to athletics registration?
- Would this policy affect non-NCAA sports like cycling?

Senators raised multiple questions for which information was not available during the Faculty Senate meeting. Senators expressed that they were interested in having more information before making a decision as to whether or not to endorse this policy proposal. Due to the number of questions raised, Chair Carlston suggested that the proposal be tabled until the November or December meeting in order for Dr. Giddings to return with more information in order to address the questions raised from senators.

2. Faculty/Staff Audit Policy

Chair Carlston presented the requested policy and catalog changes regarding the faculty and staff course audit policy. The current course audit policy for MSU faculty and staff did not include the ability of the auditing faculty/staff member to have access to the D2L portion of courses, thus not allowing access to key course material. Chair Carlston recommended changing the policy so that faculty/staff auditors can be given access to the D2L portion of the course, noting that this would require Distance Education to manually add faculty/staff auditors at the request of the course instructor.

Treasurer Bultena noted that MSU should have a policy for auditors that allows faculty to know who in the class is auditing.

Secretary Veazey suggested that course auditors be placed on the official roll sheets and marked as auditors so that faculty can know there are auditors in the course.

Chair Carlston noted that the Executive Committee will pass on to Dr. Shipley the issues surrounding auditing, including the wish of faculty to have an official listing of who is auditing the class.

Motion: The Faculty Senate proposes that the MSU Policy 3.312 and University Catalog be modified as appended such that faculty and staff members have access to the D2L components of audited courses.

Senator Lei noted an inconsistency in the policy regarding access to labs. MSU Policy 3.312 specifically states that faculty and staff auditors will not have access to labs, and Senator Lei recommended this be changed. Other senators concurred.

The motion was amended to include the deletion from MSU Policy 3.312 “MSU faculty and staff members will not be allowed to audit laboratory and skills and distance education / web technology courses.”

Motion as Amended: The Faculty Senate proposes that the MSU Policy 3.312 and University Catalog be modified as appended such that faculty and staff members have access to the D2L and laboratory components of audited courses.

Text of Proposed Revision to MSU Policy 3.312

Faculty and staff members may audit university courses free of charge with the permission of the instructor. Although MSU faculty and staff members auditing courses will be provided access to the university’s learning management system for courses being audited, they will not be required to complete paper, tests, examinations, or other assessments.

Attendance as an auditor may not be made the basis of a claim for credit in a course. Faculty and staff members desiring to receive credit for a course must enroll in the course for credit and are responsible for all tuition and fees associated with the course. (Faculty and staff members desiring to enroll in courses for credit are encouraged to review MSU Policies 3.141 and 3.223 for information regarding respective education incentive programs).

Motion to change the faculty and staff audit policy passed unanimously.

3. Ethics Policy

Chair Carlston explained that the ethics policy will be on the agenda of the November Board of Regents meeting.

Senator Fisher moved to approve the ethics policy. Senator Watts seconded.

Senators discussed the ethics policy noting:

- There seemed to be a conflict with the outside employment form and these two forms and policies should be harmonized.
- Should gender identity be mentioned in addition to sex on page 10?
- The policy still seemed a bit vague. For example, Section B should probably have stated “may” since as written now, a speeding ticket could theoretically result in disciplinary action.

Chair Carlston suggested that we approve the policy with the provision that University Counsel Macha address the concerns raised. That amendment is accepted.

Motion: Motion to approve the ethics policy with the provision the University Counselor Macha address the concerns raised by Faculty Senate. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Faculty Satisfaction Survey

Chair Carlston had distributed to senators in advance the draft Faculty Satisfaction Survey and opened the floor for discussion and suggestions.

Senator Lei suggested that the scale for all questions move in the same direction.

Chair Carlston encouraged senators to send suggestions to him electronically after the meeting for incorporation into the survey. The survey will go out to faculty members in November.

5. Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management Committee

Chair Carlston explained that a faculty senate member is needed for the Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management Committee, which will meet quarterly and work on policies and procedures related to health, safety and risk management.

Senator Kuanliang volunteered to be a member of this committee.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Dr. Carlston):

No meeting report; the committee had yet to convene for the academic year.

2. Board of Regents (Dr. Carlston):

No meeting report; no Board of Regents meeting has taken place since the last Faculty Senate meeting.

3. Academic Council (Dr. Fidelie)

No meeting report.

4. Other active committees:

No meetings to report.

5. Financial Report (Dr. Bultena):

Treasurer Bultena reports that the financial report is the same as the August and September 2017 report, \$1,227.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

1. Writing Proficiency Exam Policy Update (Melissa Nivens)

Dr. Nivens, the Writing Proficiency Administrator, presented a proposal to better accommodate distance education students and students at the Flower Mound students regarding the ability to take the Writing Proficiency Exam online through Proctor U, updating previous language. The motion passes unanimously to endorse the Writing Proficiency changes.

2. Piper Award

Dr. Elizabeth Lewandowski was voted the winner of the Piper Award nomination. Treasurer Bultena was the runner up.

3. IT Security Handbook Taskforce

The taskforce will begin meeting on Friday, October 13 and bring a report to the November faculty senate meeting. Faculty Senate will then have an opportunity to review the manual before the December meeting.

Senator Watson noted that the taskforce should ask about the stripping of administrative privileges from faculty computers. He stated that IT had informed him that this was required by state law, but that Senator Watson did not believe that to be a proper interpretation. He asked that the IT Taskforce question IT about this matter.

Parliamentarian Wilson stated that the taskforce will seek to identify best practices in regard to IT security on university campuses.

4. Commencement Speaker Committee

The May 2018 commencement will again feature a student speaker. If people have advice or concerns to share for the student's address, they can be forwarded to the Commencement Speaker Committee.

Chair Carlston explained that, after the May 2018 commencement, we will evaluate if and when we will continue student speakers at commencement.

5. University Catalog

Chair Carlston noted that the University Catalog for 207-2018 was not yet available during the midpoint of the 2017 fall semester. He proposed a motion in regard to the university catalog and course schedule.

Motion: The Faculty Senate acknowledges the many demands placed upon the Registrar's Office and the essential functions this office fulfills for all campus constituents. To this end the Faculty Senate makes two requests of the Registrar's Office:

1. *Can the University Catalog please be updated and active on the website at least one week before the start of each fall semester?* The availability of the University Catalog is essential for appropriate advising. It is impossible to appropriately advise regarding degree plans and schedules without a current catalog.
2. *Can "Release of the Class Schedule" be added to the Academic Calendar for each semester?* Provision of a release date for each class schedule in advance will greatly assist faculty in appropriately scheduling advising meetings with students.

Secretary Veazey moved and Senator Watts seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Submitted,

Linda Veazey,
Faculty Senate Secretary

David Carlson,
Faculty Senate Chairperson

Next Meetings:

The next **Executive Committee meeting** will be at **3:00 PM on Thursday, November 2** in the **PY Staff Lounge**.

The next **Faculty Senate meeting** will be at **3:00 PM on Thursday, November 8** in **Kiowa**.