

MSU Faculty Senate

November 2014 Minutes

The 2014-2015 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **November 13**, in **Dillard 189**. Senators present included David Carlston, Laura Fidelie, Charles Bultena, Stuart McClintock, Sally Henschel, Jane Leach, Barbara DeBois, Jennifer Gresham, Vicki Sanders, Tommye Hutson, Suzanne Lindt, Ted Paddack, Jeremy Duff, Phil Wilson, Bradley Wilson, Ruth Morrow, Newman Wong, Christina Miller, and Alejandro Gelves. Guests attending were Bookstore Manager Jenny Denning and James Lang, and Brian Riker (Student Government Observer).

Current Business:

1. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting and voted to approve the current agenda.
2. Bookstore Manager Jenny Denning and Course Materials Manager James Yang addressed the Faculty Senate. Ms. Denning stated that the bookstore would like to promote student organizations and is allowing organizations to use the large window in the front of the bookstore to promote themselves and their events. She said the bookstore will also help promote new courses or curriculum and can host readings for books by faculty members.

Mr. Yang discussed a new program called Faculty Discover that will enable faculty to look at what books faculty across the country are using in similar classes to what we teach. He said this should be active by summer of next year and he will return to the Faculty Senate to give a presentation on it when it becomes active. He encouraged faculty members to get their book orders in for Spring 2015.

The first week of December will be Faculty Appreciation Week at the Bookstore. Faculty will receive a 25% discount and there will be door prizes every day.

Mr. Yang stated that the bookstore will do a better job getting book orders correct and enough books for students to be able to purchase them. He encouraged faculty to visit the bookstore and check the shelves for their classes to make sure the books are there and that they are the correct books.

When students have purchased their books from the bookstore online, there has been a list of other books offered as "The Bookstore Recommends." Several Faculty Senate members mentioned that students had complained about this because it confused them. They thought that these were books the faculty were recommending as part of the course rather than just books the Bookstore was advertising on their own. Ms. Denning indicated that the bookstore would not do this anymore.

3. Provost Stewart has asked the Faculty Senate to make suggestions on faculty development opportunities we would like to see in the future. The Faculty Senate discussed a number of these and developed a list to present to the Provost. The list includes the following items:
 - a. Statistics Workshop
 - b. Teaching with Social Media
 - c. Administrative Leadership Training
 - d. Workshop on Service Learning
 - e. Community Engagement in the Classroom
 - f. Scholastic Dishonesty
 - g. Tenure and Promotion
 - h. Curriculum Development
 - i. Online Education

It was also mentioned by a number of Faculty Senate members that they would like to see the TLRC Wine and Cheese events be moved to an earlier time.

4. The Faculty Senate discussed the possibility of having the University make Annual Reports completely electronic.

Stuart McClintock motioned that the Faculty Senate recommend that the Annual Reports be completed and stored electronically. This was seconded by Ruth Morrow. The Faculty Senate voted unanimously in support of this motion.

5. The Faculty Senate discussed the search for a new University President. Chair Carlston presented a draft of a letter that would be sent to the Presidential Search Committee on behalf of the Faculty Senate. After discussion and a few wording changes, the letter was approved unanimously by the Faculty Senate. A copy of the letter will be placed on the Faculty Senate website.
6. Vice-Chair Fidelie discussed her trip to the Texas Council of Faculty Senates. Some highlights from her report are as follows:

- Nationwide, 70% of faculty appointments are contingent; this lack of economic security means diminishing academic freedom
- Governance is at risk. Far fewer faculty are in governance-eligible positions, and there is a tendency to “dump” governance on junior colleagues
- There is an increased focus on discipline/department, and a decreased focus on academic community
- How we take back higher education:
 - We need to reclaim the big ideas—including the importance of a liberal arts education in the formation of an educated, engaged citizenry.
 - There is no higher education without academic freedom

- You cannot have academic freedom without economic security
- Tenure is the best means for ensuring economic security and academic freedom
- Faculty are the stewards of the institution. We need to reassert this role. All those engaged in this work should have a role in governance.
- We need to engage parents, students, and alumni. Research shows that the public supports public higher education and also faculty job security [there is a public expectation that faculty are well-paid]
- We need to engage our colleagues off the tenure track
- We must acknowledge that the fate of tenure is linked to the fate of our colleagues in contingent appointments
- We need to identify issues of shared concern and organize and mobilize around them [emphasize the collegiality of the profession and the community of scholars]

University Round-Up Reports

- Many universities have encountered significant issues that endanger the economic security of their faculty. Those that have overcome these problems have done so when the faculty are united and vocal.
- Many faculty received raises this year (2-5%, most were not structured as merit raises)
- Several universities conducted salary studies, which greatly benefitted their faculty.

Resolutions Passed:

- TCFS passed a resolution that the Texas Legislature fund Hazelwood and other similar acts.
- TCFS passed a resolution that the Texas Legislature increase funding for higher education by 25% during the next legislative session.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Carlston): No Report
2. Board of Regents (Carlston): The Board of Regents met on November 6-7. Chair Carlston reported that at the meeting University President Jesse Rogers presented a top ten list of his priorities for the University. The top 3 of those were: 1) the Campus Master Plan, 2) Parking, 3) Enrollment. Chair Carlston stated that the Board was presented with a copy of the University's expenditures compared to the University budget for this point in the fiscal year. He will attempt to obtain a copy of that report for the Faculty Senate. The Board approved the new Housing Project and an addition to the Fain

Fine Arts Building. The new dorm is estimated to cost \$33.25 million and the addition to Fain is estimated to cost \$5 million.

The Board officially voted to change the step increases in salary for faculty that are promoted to associate or full professor. Those being promoted from assistant professor to associate professor will receive a \$5000 raise. Those being promoted from associate professor to full professor will receive a \$10000 raise.

3. Academic Council (Fidelie): No Report. Dr. Fidelie stated that at the next meeting she will address the issue regarding students taking online classes from out of state that was discussed at the October Faculty Senate meeting.
4. Intercollegiate Athletics (Paddack): Dr. Paddack asked that the Faculty Senate make time for the MSU Athletic Director to come speak to the Senate. It was agreed that the Senate would do so.
5. Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Lindt): Dr. Lindt stated that enrollment is up 4 students from Fall 2013. There are 814 new freshman compared to 817 in Fall 2013, and there are 56 fewer transfer students compared to that period. However, the University returned 72% of 2013 freshman, which is up from 68% the previous academic year. Mustangs Rally numbers are up and applications are up for Spring 2015.
6. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$2604.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Announcements: None

The meeting adjourned at **4:35pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Duff
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

David Carlston
Chairman of the Faculty Senate