

MSU Faculty Senate

October 2016 Minutes

The 2016-2017 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **October 13, 2016**, in **Dillard 189**. Senators present included Charles Bultena, Laura Fidelie, Jeremy Duff, Bradley Wilson, David Carlston, Phillip Wilson, Catherine Gaharan, Stacia Miller, Kym Acuña, Jeff Killion, Ben Atkins, Debra Kelley, Victoria Sanders, Beverly Stiles, Charles Watson, Jonathan Price, Salim Azzouz, Nathan Jun, Yvonne Franke, Andrew Allen, and Karen Dabney. Guests in attendance were Staff Senate Representative Johnna Lynn Weigand, University Council, Mr. Barry Macha, Director of Human Resources, Dawn Fisher, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Betty Stewart.

Housekeeping:

Approval of the minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously with no amendments.

Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Current Business:

1. University Council Barry Macha addressed the Faculty Senate on the draft policy regarding Texas Senate Bill 20 (SB 20). Mr. Macha stated that SB 20 requires the University to do a number of things. Section 51.9337(c) is the section that is most relevant to the faculty at MSU. Mr. Macha supplied the Senate with copies of SB 20, along with his notes on the bill, and copies of the draft policy he has written to implement SB 20 into University policy.

The Senate has formed a subcommittee to look into the bill and the draft policy that addresses the bill. Senators will be contacting people in the colleges for their thoughts on the bill.

Ultimately, the Senate will put together a response on the concerns with the draft policy by the November Faculty Senate meeting. All faculty are encouraged to look at SB 20 and the proposed draft policy and contact their Senators with any thoughts, concerns, or suggestions.

The University Administration would like to be able to take a policy to the MSU Board of Regents by the May 2017, Board Meeting.

Additionally, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Betty Stewart addressed the Senate in regards to SB 20. She asked that as we look at the bill and the draft policy, if we see any areas that will restrict our scholarly activities, for example, boards, editorial boards, etc. please bring those to the attention of the subcommittee.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will meet with the subcommittee at the next Executive Committee meeting and draft a list of recommendations and concerns about the draft policy. This will be proposed to the Senate at the November Faculty Senate Meeting. The subcommittee is comprised of:

Karen Polvado - Health Sciences
Andrew Allen - Fine Arts
Phillip Wilson - Business
George Diekhoff – Liberal Arts
Kym Acuña – Education
Jonathan Price – Math and Sciences

2. Director of Human Resources, Dawn Fisher addressed the Senate on the Staff Compensation Plan completed by Evergreen. Chair Carlston will email out a copy of the plan which will be drafted into MSU policy.
3. Senator Karen Dabney addressed the Senate in regards to the ADA Accessibility Compliance Committee. She stated that currently the committee is focusing on developing a web accessibility policy for the University. She states that many lawsuits have been filed recently, at other universities, and that MSU needs to get ahead on this issue to prevent any legal actions from being taken. Eventually, this will involve training sessions for faculty members, involving things like closed-captioning and alternate text. They hope to have a policy in place by fall of 2017, so that new classes will be web accessible.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Carlston): No report
2. Board of Regents (Carlston): No report
3. Academic Council (Fidelie): Took action on some catalog changes.
4. Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (TBD): The University tried to move the priority application deadline, but the University cannot do this because we serve too many lower socioeconomic students. As of November 1, the University has a new Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Affairs.
5. Strategic Planning Committee (Wilson): They had what was characterized as a “reset” meeting. Moving forward, some subcommittees will be doing some things over and some subcommittees will be doing some things differently.
6. Budget Oversight Committee (Stiles): Will not meet until spring.
7. Other active committees: The Taskforce on Scholarships and Admissions will be meeting to start working on helping underprepared students. The Fair Labor Standards Act Task Force will be sending out an email that discusses overtime policy and how to reduce overtime across campus.

8. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has a balance of \$1,338. Bradley Wilson will be attending the Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

The meeting adjourned at **4:05pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Duff
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

David Carlston
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

Next Meetings:

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 3, in PY Lounge.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be at 3 p.m. on Thursday, November 10, in Kiowa CSC.