

MSU Faculty Senate

September 2013 Minutes

The 2012-2013 MSU Faculty Senate met at 3:00 PM on **September 12, 2013**, in **Dillard 189**. Senators present included Jackie Dunn, Terry McDonald, Jon Price, Jane Leach, Barbara Dubois, Laura Fidelie, Gary Morrison, Ted Paddack, Kathy Roberts, Charles Bultena, Jim Owen, Phillip Wilson, Alan Black, Ruth Morrow, David Carlston, Jeremy Duff, Sally Henschel, Nathan Jun, Stuart McClintock, Suzanne Lindt, and Terry Griffin. Visitors in attendance were President Jesse Rogers, Provost Betty Stewart, VP of Business Affairs and Finance Marilyn Fowle, Staff Senate Representative Angie Reay, and Dean of Math and Science Dr. Lynn Little.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

The minutes of the **August 2013 Meeting** were unanimously approved.

Current Business:

1. Vice President of Business Affairs and Finance Marilyn Fowle presented a Power Point presentation on the FY 2013-2014 Budget. That presentation is available upon request from the Faculty Senate. VP Fowle first discussed the University investments for FY 2013-2014. These total \$2.8 million and include items such as pay raises for faculty and staff, health insurance cost increases, scholarship increases, QEP-undergraduate research, and the enrollment management initiative, among others. The FY 2013-2014 budget assumes an enrollment of 5,900 students. Actual enrollment came just under that, but VP Fowle indicated that the number of credit hours these students were enrolled in was higher than projected.

The FY 2012-2013 budget ending balance is estimated to be \$17.5 million. They estimate budget revenues for FY 2013-2014 to be \$96.9 million, and expenses to be \$98.5 million, leaving an ending balance of \$15.9 million for FY 2013-2014. That leaves a budget deficit of \$1.6 million, which includes the \$2.8 million in investments, such as the faculty and staff pay increases. The University was also one of only three in the state who did not raise tuition and fees this year.

Other highlights from the presentation are as follows:

The University wants to increase the total number of graduate assistantships available and also how much those assistantships pay.

The state will recalculate HEAF money in 2016.

Fundraising has increased every year that the presentation covered (FY10-FY14).

State funding dropped from 28% of the University's budget to 22% from FY10 to FY14.

The University renegotiated electricity costs and they estimate a savings of 15%.

The University added 8.5 faculty positions this past year.

The administration is fairly confident the University will receive a tuition revenue bond from the next legislative session.

The University is given \$3.559M a year in HEAF money. The University just paid off a HEAF bond that was costing \$1.4M a year for debt service (leaving us \$2.1M to use on capital/equipment priorities). In FY14, the University had approximately \$1.4M more to allocate, of which IT received an additional \$600K, Academic Affairs received an additional \$300K, and then the administration set aside \$550K for master plan projects in the future. The current plan is to continue to set aside approximately this much each year and/or use these funds for major projects. They are not inclined to rush into issuing more bonds and commit the institution to additional debt service at this time.

Dr. Rogers also spoke. He said that “enrollment is the key to our future.” He indicated that the number of beginning freshman attending the university has declined due to two major factors: 1) old recruiting practices and 2) raised admission requirements. Every class had declined except for seniors, so we have more graduating and less beginning. He stated that Keith Lamb believes with the new recruiting practices we have begun, with the advisement of Noel-Levitz, we can increase the number of beginning freshman to 1,000. They project future enrollment to reach 7,200 by FY 2017 and hope to have as many as 6,000 by FY 2015. Dr. Rogers indicated that with the number of available students declining in the Wichita Falls and local area the University will have to increase its focus on students from the DFW metroplex area. This in turn will lead for a demand in more housing on campus. He also said that the University cannot live forever on growth and will have to shift towards behaving more like a private school with a focus on fundraising.

In response to a question from Vice Chair Fidelie, Dr. Stewart spoke about the need for faculty to discuss future goals, and the things that will help them reach those goals, in their annual faculty reports. She also suggested faculty speak to their chairs and deans about the things that can help them succeed in their future goals, because those discussions will help direct budget priorities in the future.

2. Chair Carlston re-opened the tabled discussion from the August Senate meeting on the HERI survey presented by Dr. Stewart. Treasurer Bultena read the motion to endorse the use of the HERI Faculty Survey:

The Faculty Senate moves to allow the administration of the HERI Faculty Survey under the auspices of the Provost’s Office in the mid to late fall semester 2013. We understand that this survey will be administered during the fall semester once every three years, and that results of the 2013 and subsequent surveys will be made available to all members of the faculty, both full and part time. The timing of the HERI Faculty Survey during the fall semester will allow

the Senate to conduct its own Faculty Satisfaction Survey during the spring semester of each academic year, as was initiated in spring 2013.

After a discussion on what Senators had heard from the faculty in their colleges about the Survey, Parliamentarian Morrow called the question.

The Senate voted unanimously to endorse the use of the survey by the Office of the Provost.¹

3. Chair Carlston opened discussion on the Faculty Satisfaction Survey. He recommended that the Senate create a committee to review and analyze the raw data from the survey who will then make two recommendations. First, they will recommend changes to be made to future iterations of the survey, if necessary. Second, they will recommend specific action items the Senate should consider based on the results of the survey administered Spring 2013.

The committee will consist of Senators Terry Griffin, Suzanne Lindt, and Phil Wilson.

Senator McClintock suggested the Senate meet with Dr. Rogers and the University Administration to discuss the results from the Survey. He then made a motion to:

Schedule a meeting with upper administration to meet with the Faculty Senate, at a future date, to present results and goals developed from the Faculty Satisfaction Survey.

Secretary Duff seconded the motion.

After a short discussion, Parliamentarian Morrow called the question.

It was unanimously approved by the Senate.

4. The Faculty Senate addressed the Senate Goals taken from the results from the Faculty Satisfaction Survey. These are as follows:
 - 1) Establish a working relationship with the MSU administration in which the faculty are consulted and given the opportunity for input on decisions that impact faculty members.
 - a. Annual meeting with upper administration where Faculty Senate discusses goals for upcoming year.
 - b. Placing faculty senate representatives on all important decision making committees.
 - c. Ensure faculty involvement in any re-visitation of the strategic plan.
 - 2) Develop relationships with various campus offices and groups.
 - a. Placing faculty senate representatives on all important decision making committees.
 - b. Faculty opportunities to collaborate and express appreciation on fundraising.

¹ Please see Addendum to the Minutes at the end of this document.

- 3) Explore how the Faculty Senate can improve communication among faculty.
 - a. A point person in each college to communicate with other faculty in that college.
 - b. Senate representatives meet occasionally with deans of each college.

Senator Black motioned to accept the goals.

Vice-Chair Fidelie seconded the motion.

The Senate unanimously adopted the goals.

5. The Senate addressed the issue of commencement speakers. A motion was made by Senator Leach as follows:

Motion to endorse that the advisory committee regarding commencement speaker consist of:

- a. Debbie Barrow
- b. Chair of Faculty Senate
- c. Chair of Staff Senate
- d. SGA President
- e. Student Regent
- f. Representative from the Alumni Association

With the recommendation that the Coordinator for Multicultural Affairs be added to the committee.

The motion was seconded by Senator Dubois.

The Senate voted unanimously to endorse the advisory committee with the recommendation to add the Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs.

Committee and Other Reports:

1. Administrative Council (Carlston): No Report
2. Board of Regents (Carlston): No Report
3. Academic Council (Fidelie): No Report
4. Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Lindt): No Report
5. Intercollegiate Athletics Council (Paddack): No Report
6. Financial report (Bultena): The Faculty Senate has \$1017.

New Business: Senator Black asked that we invite a representative from the bookstore to the next Senate meeting to discuss the changes and issues that have arisen since the bookstore changed affiliation.

Chair Carlston stated that Julie Gaynor has created a Social Media Policy for the University and has asked that the Faculty Senate endorse that policy. Chair Carlston will submit that policy to the rest of the Faculty Senate, for their review, when he receives it.

Old Business: none

Announcements: none

The meeting adjourned at **4:55pm**.

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 Thursday, **October 3**, in Apache CSC.

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

Addendum to the MSU Faculty Senate September 2013 Minutes

After the September 2013 Faculty Senate meeting, it was discovered by Parliamentarian Ruth Morrow and Vice Chair Laura Fidelie that the motion in regards to the HERI Survey that had been tabled in the August 2013 Faculty Senate meeting contained different wording than the motion that had been re-opened and voted on in the September 2013 Faculty Senate meeting. To rectify this discrepancy, on October 2, 2013, the Faculty Senate held an e-mail vote for the original motion that was read and tabled in the August 2013 Faculty Senate meeting. At the time of this writing, 15 members of the Faculty Senate have voted in favor of the original motion (with no dissents), constituting a majority of Faculty Senate members, thus the motion is now passed. The motion reads as:

The Faculty Senate resolves to endorse the administration of the HERI Faculty Survey under the auspices of the Provost's Office during the mid to late Fall semester of 2013. We recognize that this survey will be administered during the Fall semester once every three years, and that results of the 2013 and subsequent surveys will be made available to all members of the faculty, both full and part time. The timing of the HERI Faculty Survey during the Fall semester will allow the Faculty Senate to administer its own Faculty Satisfaction Survey during the Spring semester of each academic year, as was initiated in Spring 2013, or at any other time that does not conflict with the administration of the HERI Faculty Survey.

This motion to endorse the HERI Faculty Survey should effectively replace the one that was voted on at the September 2013 Faculty Senate meeting.