

## **Faculty Senate Minutes October 2, 2008**

### **Call to Order:**

Call to order: 4:15 pm; Riggle Room; ADUC.

Senators Absent: Donna Baker, Braden Frieder, Lesia Lennex, Jennifer Little, Barbara Lyons, Beverly McCormick, Layne Neeper, Rodney Stanley

Visitors: Phil Gniot, Dan Markwell

Minutes: September 18, 2008 - Under Senate Actions: Governance: A Senator objected to two faculty from the same department (Health, Physical Education and Sport Science) being elected to the Graduate Committee. Chair Thomas referred this back to the Governance Committee for correction. Senator Chatham moved to approve the minutes of September 18, 2008 as revised. Senator Perkins seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Committee Review:**

Academic Policies: Met with Charlie Patrick to clarify items related to SACS accreditation: classes can count for both major and Gen Ed; faculty roster program to verify SACS credentials; certification by exceptional experiences is a course specific approval

Communications: Faculty list-serv is available

Evaluation: Reviewed power point presentation by Mike Walters and Sharon Reynolds regarding the senior administration 2008 survey

Fiscal Affairs: No Report

Governance: Will present committee assignments to be voted on

Professional Policies: Will present PAC-6 for first reading

### **Reports:**

Chairs Report:

- Chair Thomas encouraged all senators to forward Regent Morrison's email regarding the Regent Forum to their colleagues.
- Phil Gniot presented a brief overview of the Health Care Benefits for 2009. The Health Care Benefits will be detailed during open enrollment the first three weeks of November. Mr. Gniot discussed the following items:
  - Healthcare Strategic Objective
  - Strategy
  - Previous Milestones
  - 2009 Healthcare Plan Design Recommendations
  - Dental Recommendations
- Dan Markwell presented a brief overview of the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP), which will be an additional plan option, and the Health Savings Account (HSA).

A question and answer session followed.

Chair Thomas will forward the power-point presentation to the senate members.

**Provosts Report:**

- Charlie Patrick provided the Provosts Report. FGEAC and GESC have conducted meetings in some of the departments. The Provost encourages faculty to attend the departmental meetings regarding Gen Ed that are still to be held.

**Regents Report:**

- Regent Morrison thanked the members for forwarding the email regarding the Regent Blog
- BOR will meet on October 16, 2008
- Regent Morrison attended the Governors Conference on Post Secondary Education Trusteeship. The Governor is forming a panel on higher education funding to try to achieve a more consistent level of funding.

**Senate Actions:**

**Communication:**

- Information will be provided to the members about the faculty list-serv which is now available. Senator Wymer asked for other suggestions for a good forum for discussion by faculty. Suggestions were:
  - Blog
  - Link within the MSU web site
  - Blackboard discussion board

Chair Thomas asked the Communication Committee to take the suggestions and determine a plan to be presented to the Senate.

**Evaluation:** No Report

**Governance:**

- The committee recommended the following slate of candidates for membership to University Standing Committees:
  - Professional Development Committee – Emma Perkins, Humanities, term 2008-2009
  - Promotion Committee – Dean Owen, Education, "at large" remainder of 2006-2009 term
  - International Studies Advisory Committee – Esther Ratejewski, Humanities, 2008-2010 term and Capp Yess, Science and Technology, 2008-2010 termRecommendation passed.

**Professional Policies:**

- The committee presented revisions to PAC-6 for a first reading. Senator Chatham provided a summary of the changes. The members asked questions for clarification of the revisions. Senator Chatham asked that the members submit their amendments in written form, being very specific as to where the language is to be changed, what language is to be changed and how it is to be changed.

Charlie Patrick presented a brief overview of Weave (assessment system for accountability). Dr. Patrick will provide any information the faculty need and will meet with anyone who requests it.

**Announcements:**

Fresh water prawns are available for sale at the University farm.  
Adjournment: 5:35 pm