

Chair's Report

Senate

April 5, 2012

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to today's Senate.

***** Approval of Minutes*****

Are there any corrections that need to be made to the March 15th minutes? Hearing none for March 15th, the minutes are approved as read.

***** 60 Second Committee Review*****

I would like to begin today by thanking all of you who attended last Thursday's senate and for helping to bring our work on Pac 27 to a close. I feel confident in Provost Hughes' support of Pac 27 and hopeful of President Andrews' concurrence.

Last week I mentioned my concern regarding the mid – year salary increase for some in the administration and its affect this may have on faculty morale. We all have worked hard over the last 4 or 5 years in our departments to address MSU's initiatives and accreditation requirements. A lot of change has occurred which has caused discomfort for many, but everyone persevered and accomplished what was asked of them! It's amazing that faculty in such a short amount of time have adapted to APNA reporting, a new General Education Program, and assessment / SLO requirements on course syllabi. Wow, I feel like our faculty are super heroes given all they have done! And that, senators, is what we are: super heroes! We are in the trenches day in and day out working with students: helping them grow intellectually, motivating them to take risks and to challenge the conventional, and providing them encouragement when they are in need. I'm proud to be one of those super heroes here at MSU and I hope you are too.

But, given all we have done at the request of our supervisors and for the future of this institution, I stand firm on my position regarding the sensitive issue of salary for faculty. This is a time of austerity not one of prosperity --- if it were the latter, we probably wouldn't be having these conversations with our administration because periodic salary increases wouldn't be as much a concern. With that said, the administration considers certain faculty policies to be more important than others in making compensation decisions. The Senate has made a good faith effort to address these policies by revising and approving Pac 7, Pac 27; and in the coming weeks the senate will work to finalize Pac 29 Faculty Workload Agreements and get Pac 29 to the President's desk by mid May.

We are doing our jobs to the best of our abilities --- I know that all of us in the Senate are committed to improving the lives and work of faculty at MSU and to preserving the academic integrity of our programs.

