



FACULTY SENATE COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

March 16, 2017 meeting

“But, for my own part, it was Greek to me” (The Overview) Rightfully wary of the ides of March, the 2016-2017 Faculty Senate held its thirteenth regular meeting on March 16, 2017. The body received updates on the NCAA infraction, approved the revised PAc-27 (Tenure), and discussed a number of budget amendments that were put forward at the last Board of Regents meeting.

“Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears” (Announcements)

- **Update on the NCAA infraction:** Listed below is an excerpt from the 3/16/17 email Chair Dobranski sent the Senate:

First, over the last couple weeks, a link to the NCAA infraction press release and eventually to the report has been added. The link has also been made more “conspicuous.” Take a look at the bottom of the page: <http://www.msueagles.com/>

In response to the resolution on making the NCAA report and administration statements agree, I received the following from VP of Student Success Jason Bentley:

“I understood from a review of the Faculty Senate minutes and discussion with Dr. Andrews that you were seeking additional assurances about MSU’s NCAA compliance. MSU has, and continues to work collaboratively with the NCAA on this matter. The language in question is part of the appendix is not part of the Committee on Infractions’ decision. This was clarified and affirmed with NCAA staff. Also, the self-imposed penalties and additional NCAA-imposed penalties were agreed and MSU’s resulting response found to be compliance. Specifically, as a part of the process, MSU provided examples to evidence compliance and clarified mutual understanding of the university’s communications about the infractions and the investments to continually improve the enterprise resource planning (ERP) software through Ellucian. NCAA officials affirmed that the agreed censure statements are compliant and as understood through bylaw 19.8.1, the official decision is all that is governed in the decisions process and the appendix is not. This means there is no concern about adjusting the statement within

the appendix as it is not part of the final, official decision. As an aside, bylaw 19.8.1 specifically states 'After a hearing, the hearing panel shall prepare and approve the final written infractions decision, which shall contain a statement of the findings of fact, conclusions of violations, penalties, corrective actions, requirements and (for institutions) any other conditions and obligations of membership (adopted: 10/30/12 effective 8/1/13).'"

In the brief discussion that followed, Senator Tallichet expressed dismay that the appendix of an official report somehow doesn't count as part of the official record (despite being recorded and ostensibly approved by all parties). Senator McBrayer suggested that the issue could be definitively laid to rest if we were given a written statement of some sort from the NCAA, asserting that we are in compliance. Senator Schack, who had met with CFO Patrick to discuss this issue, wished to clarify that the million dollars mentioned in the appendix of the report is actually a contract amount, not an amount that has been spent. What could not be fully clarified/determined: (1) how much of the contract amount has been spent and (2) whether the software upgrades will allow for the tracking capabilities that were available in AIMS, the software system MSU was utilizing before Colleague.

- **TAB resolution:** President Andrews told Chair Dobranski that he would "look into" the Senate's resolution regarding the Technology Advisory Board (see the 3/2/16 Senate CR). Senator McBrayer, who had attended the most recent Staff Congress meeting, reported that Staff Congress shares our concerns, and they averred that TAB should either be used or disbanded. During the course of discussion, there was some debate as to whether or not TAB should be a standing committee, and the body appeared to be moving toward a consensus that Senate should be more assertive in its pronouncements. A motion regarding more direct action was ultimately tabled and the "problem" of what to do with TAB was given to Issues.
- **State of the Institution report:** The report, which has been redesignated "State of Academics," will be a forward-looking document that endeavors to show how faculty can work with new university leadership to move the institution forward. The committee intends to select 5 major issues (TBD), outline what is currently working, and suggest possible collaborative solutions to endemic problems.
- **General Education Review Taskforce update:** The faculty-led committee is currently reviewing our program and determining what, if anything, needs to be reworked/revisted. Faculty are strongly encouraged to look at the [model program at Western Kentucky](#) to see if there are any elements or ideas that could be deployed at MSU. Senator McBrayer, who is on the taskforce, urged faculty to complete the Gen Ed survey (due by March 29th) and asked Senate to consider endorsing (or not endorsing) the final product of the committee's work. Senator Finch, another member of the taskforce, added that assessment remains a concern, and that the committee is exploring alternate models and ideas, especially those that would ease the assessment burden.
- **IDEA forms:** Faculty received a message that IDEA forms are due by March 30th. A number of Senators wanted to know why this date has changed, and why it is so early in the semester.
- **President's Leadership Council:** President Andrews is certain that the concealed carry bills won't make it out of committee this legislative term. Because this legislation is bound to return in some form next year, it would be wise for Senate (and Staff Congress

and the Student Government Association) to begin drafting opposition. Senator Finch, who is involved with a gun-related non-profit, offered to supply the body with language that it could use in such a draft. The Council also discussed a proposed change to travel cards. For those who do not travel much: people will now have to “check out” a travel card that they will have to replenish with their own funds after the trip is over. Those who travel 3 times or more a semester will get a travel card. Any questions or concerns may be directed at Harry Floyd, our new travel coordinator.

“Good words are better than bad strokes, Octavius” (Old Business: PAc-27)

Senator Carlson introduced the revised PAc-27 for a second reading. Hearing no discussion of the revisions (which were carefully articulated last Senate meeting), Senator McBryer moved to approve; Senator Adams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

“Men at some time are masters of their fates” (New Business: Sending thanks to the BOR for the work they completed during the Presidential search)

The Executive Council wishes to send formal thanks the Board of Regents for the accommodations they made during the visit of the presidential candidate (the extension of time for a faculty forum, the addition of an open forum for faculty/staff/students who could not attend other times, the open-ended survey provided to all stakeholders). This thanks, Chair Dobranski noted, was initially conceived as a resolution (and so designated on the agenda for this meeting) and subsequently reconceived as an email. Chair Dobranski asked if the Senate as a whole wished to endorse a formal thank-you. Senator Aagaard moved to send an email from the entire body, and the motion was seconded. During the brief discussion that followed, Senator Caric expressed concern that such a move grants special recognition for basic professional courtesy. Senator Aagaard countered that changes made after the initial visit was scheduled show a concerted effort to work with faculty and staff, and she believes that such effort should be rewarded and encouraged. Other Senators voiced their support of such a motion, but did not wish to formally approve a statement without seeing specific wording. In response to Senator Creahan’s request for actual language, Chair Dobranski projected a draft that had been circulating among the EC. This draft, Senator Aagaard noted, did not include the justifications Chair Dobranski mentioned, and she urged the EC to include those. Senator Schack moved to table to the motion until such adjustments were made. The motion was tabled.

“But men may construe things after their fashion, Clean from the purpose of the things themselves” (Regent report)

The Board of Regents held their last meeting on March 9, 2017, when they voted to extend a formal offer to the presidential candidate that visited campus, Dr. Jay Morgan. Regent Berglee noted this well-publicized fact in the report he emailed Senators (see the Regent report sent along with this CR), but he spent the bulk of his time discussing issues with the budget and budget amendments. Senator Adams, following up on a series of queries she had circulated regarding the BOR meeting, lamented the inconsistency of budget information and underscored the need for clear and consistent accounting. Although some members of the Senate were clearly troubled by the reclassification of the Lappin chiller as a “project,” and the redesignation of the furlough

money as a fund balance, the majority of the conversation centered on the renovations to the President's house. A number of questions were raised (regarding budget lines and mandates for historical preservation), but no one was knowledgeable enough to provide any definitive answers.

“There are no tricks in plain and simple faith” (Provost report)

The Provost began by stating that the date for the submission of IDEA forms would be pushed back. Faculty should expect an email to that effect soon. He followed with other good news. Academic Affairs is currently getting its “house in order” regarding graduate programs because, right now, our best opportunity to change our financial portfolio is increased graduate student enrollment. To be more competitive, our MBA has been shifted to 30 hours (so motivated students can complete it in one year), and we had an RFP for graduate marketing. FuseIdeas, the company that gave us our new website, submitted the lowest bid, so MSU is will more than likely be working with them. (Editorial aside: hopefully, the results of this collaboration will be more functional than our website reno.) The Provost also noted that the dual-credit course system will be articulated in statute soon (as opposed to mere executive order), and this will allow the system to be more highly controlled. NIPI proposals are being reviewed, and the Cabinet is still working on funding models. The CPE has approved a 5% tuition hike. It will now be up to the Board to determine, in its June meeting, what percentage (if any) the institution will raise tuition rates. Last, but not least, our Family Nurse Practitioner program will come up for a CPE vote on March 31st.

“Cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war!” (Faculty Senate Committee Reports)

- **Governance:** No report
- **Academic Issues:** Senator Riegle has information about ADVISE for anyone who is interested.
- **Evaluations:** Senator Tallichet will be scheduling a meeting.
- **Faculty Welfare and Concerns:** The revised PAC-27 was passed earlier in the meeting.
- **Issues:** The committee continues to work on the State of Academics report and will begin discussing what to do with TAB (see the announcements).

“And whether we shall meet again, I know not” (Motion to adjourn) There was a motion to adjourn at 5:25 p.m. (the time the Senate needed to vacate Breck 002). The body is scheduled to meet again on March 30th at 3:45 p.m.



Submitted by the 2016-2017 Faculty Senate Communications Officer, who laments the “terrible era in which idiots govern the blind.”