



FACULTY SENATE COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

April 20, 2017 meeting

“April is the cruelest month” (The Overview) Faculty Senate held its fourteenth regular meeting on April 20, 2017. It received updates on the changing curriculum cycle and General Education review, approved the Governance slate of appointments for standing committees, and agreed to the administrative stipulations to PAc-27. The body also passed a resolution regarding the proposed budget cuts, cuts that would disproportionately harm Academic Affairs.

“For I have known them all already, known them all—” (Announcements)

- **PAc-26:** Chair Goodpaster is in receipt of the Executive Council’s request to delay approval of a revised PAc-26 until the new President comes to campus, and he is seriously considering the request. He has asked the reconciliation committee to provide the draft of the policy completed so far so that he can evaluate this good faith effort before he makes a final determination.
- **Possible special session:** Chair Dobranski reserves the right to call a special session of the Senate next Thursday (April 27th) to discuss either developments on PAc-26 or actions regarding the current budget crisis.
- **ITV update:** The long prophesied phase-out of ITV has begun. Faculty who were scheduled to teach ITV classes in the Fall have been contacted. (Note: ITV can still be used, but there will no longer be software to support it.)
- **ILP (integrated learning platform):** There will be a demonstration of our ILP on the 4th of May. Contrary to what many have heard, there will be no UAR mandating the taking of attendance in classes, but faculty will be encouraged to start doing so online in the Fall. The ILP will be piloted in Intersession.
- **New faculty regent:** Dr. Jonathan Pidluzny was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Regents. (Dr. Pidluzny also recently appeared on “Kentucky Tonight” to debate US foreign policy. If you missed the original airdate, you can still watch our new regent discuss the mother of all bombs online: <https://www.ket.org/episode/KKYTO+002416/>)

“And so each venture/Is a new beginning, a raid on the inarticulate” (Update from Dr. Laurie Couch on the changing curriculum cycle)

During our last review, SACS recommended that we modify the way we deal with substantive change in the curriculum. Our current curriculum review cycle does not afford the 6-month lead-in reviewing bodies require to be able to post notification of substantive changes and place items for approval on agendas. (Note: we are only afforded two chances for reporting and approval, once in December and once in June.) In order to effectively meet the external schedule for the reporting and approval of substantive changes we will be moving our internal curriculum review process from an academic year to a calendar year. We will begin in January and end in December to grant a 6-month lead-in for the June meeting. If the changes are approved externally at that meeting, we will be able to publish the changes in the catalogue in August.

Our transition to the new schedule will happen over the Summer and Fall of 2017, wherein we will have a shortened window for review until we begin our new cycle in January of 2018. Dr. Couch’s office will work with any department over the summer to aid in any work (including the drafting of proposals) during the transition process.

In the brief discussion that followed, Senators asked what constituted a substantive change that would require such external review. Dr. Couch noted that there was a long list of particulars specified by SACS. She and the director of Institutional Research, Jill Ratliff, will identify substantive curricular changes, and her office will work with faculty to facilitate the approval process. A number of Senators also lamented the external bureaucratic constraints that will, in their estimation, now stifle pedagogic innovation.

“That corpse you planted last year in your garden,/Has it begun to sprout?” (Update from Dr. Chris Schroeder on the Gen Ed Taskforce)

The Taskforce got a relatively high response rate for its Gen Ed survey. The results, which Dr. Schroeder shared in two open fora previously, pointed to some areas of consensus: 75% of respondents do not think that the capstone course should be in Gen Ed, and no one is happy with either FYS or assessment. The results of the student survey (700 of 5,000 students replied) have just been received, so Dr. Schroeder could not officially present any findings, but he did report that a number of students asserted their belief that General Education is waste of time.

In the brief discussion that followed, Dr. Schroeder noted that instructors would have greater flexibility in course design and assessment if capstones were no longer designated as Gen Ed, and that the complications that attend exchange courses are not mere internal constraints. Gen Ed is bound by CPE and SACS guidelines, so any attempt at streamlining would need to take these rules into account. Senator Caric, who exhorted the Taskforce to take the suggestions of the students seriously, stated his belief that we could use Gen Ed as a recruitment tool if we render the program more coherent and meaningful.

Between the motion and the appointment falls the slate (Governance appointment of standing committees)

Senator Cottingham put forward the Governance committee’s annual slate of appointees for university standing committees (see Appendix A). The vote to approve was unanimous.

“Do I dare/Disturb the universe?” (Old Business: PAc-27)

The administration approved the Senate’s revision of PAc-27, with the stipulation that lines 52-6, which articulate the acceptance process for years toward tenure, be reverted to the previous version of the policy. Although the committee (Faculty Welfare and Concerns) was not pleased with this reversion, they determined that it was better to make this relatively minor concession than stall a document that has been so long in the making. Senator Aagaard, who stated that she would consent to the stipulation, asked that Senate review this particular provision in the PAc when the new President comes to campus. The stipulated version of the PAc passed unanimously.

This is the way the university ends, This is the way the university ends, This is the way the university ends, Not with a bang but a whimper (New Business—resolution on budget cuts)

The Issues committee put forward a resolution on the proposed budget cuts for 2017-18, asking the President to shield the division that has already been disproportionately hit in recent budget cycles, Academic Affairs (see Appendix B).

A number of Senators expressed agreement with the resolution. Senator Aagaard fully supported the measure because she does not “know what we’re doing with our money,” and Senator Tallichet averred that “the student experience is the academic experience” before she reported that the majority of her department was in favor of the resolution. Senator White commended the authors of the resolution, praising the clear presentation of information therein.

Dr. McLaren, who was attending as a proxy for Senator Schack, asked that the body to consider including language that would assert that the cuts were also jeopardizing the quality of programs. Members of Issues agreed with the sentiment, but affirmed the importance of sticking to verifiable specifics that cannot be subverted or refuted. Senator Caric, a fellow member of Issues, stated his belief that Senate could never produce a “bullet-proof document” because Senate is not dealing with “honest actors.” In the end, no change to the resolution was made.

The body moved to consider the resolution as a second reading and vote on the document during the meeting. The resolution passed unanimously.

“[W]ere we led all that way for/Birth or Death?” (New Business—resolution on Wayne Andrews’ service)

Senator Kiffmeyer introduced a resolution, authored by Dr. Scott Davison, commending Wayne Andrews for his service to the university. Senator Kiffmeyer stated that he neither endorsed nor opposed this resolution; he was only bringing it to the Senate floor because he was asked to do so. After the body was reminded that another Senator would have to second the motion for the resolution to be discussed, Senator Creahan so moved.

Claiming that she wished to have time to speak with her constituents about this issue, Senator Riegle moved to table the resolution. After Senator McBrayer’s second, the resolution was tabled.

UPDATE: The Executive Council was tasked with determining what to do with a resolution that both the author and his Senator felt obliged to introduce, but disinclined to openly support on the Senate floor. Even though the request to circulate and poll faculty was not part of the resolution itself, Chair Dobranski nonetheless distributed the document to the Senate and encouraged Senators to do with the resolution as they see fit, as long as they acknowledge that this resolution is neither authored by nor under the imprimatur of the Senate itself. Members of the Council are also looking into Senator Aagaard's query as to what was done when President Eaglin retired. Because official Senate records are lacking, these members have to rely on institutional memory. So far, no one questioned has recalled a commendation/resolution for President Eaglin, but two previous Senate Chairs, who served during Eaglin's final years in office, recall robust discussions of the "golden parachute" Dr. Eaglin was given when he left MSU.

"What the Thunder Said" (Provost report)

The Provost had some good news to report. We currently have 1,034 paid deposits from students for the Fall and a new Eagle Express app. This is allowing VP Bentley to be very confident in his (admittedly conservative) estimations of enrollment. Our Fall to Spring retention was 89% (a very high number for us), and our credit hours are also up (91% generated).

We are also moving forward on important projects. The final draft of the Diversity Plan will be finished today, and the campus will soon see the comprehensive initiative. The FuseIdea proposal for the marketing of graduate programs has been given to the President for approval. The Provost believes we will be able to find some money to fund this because graduate programs are one of the quickest ways we can increase revenue.

Much work remains to be done in the area of international students. We have all heard that the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to the U.S declared MSU "unavailable" to Saudi students. MSU officials are still in talks to see what can be done to reverse this decision, but it appears as though this is part of a national trend: the Saudi government is cutting off funding to schools where they believe there is "saturation." Currently, we have 137 Saudi students, and two-thirds of those students are in engineering. In other international news, there is a report on International Studies at MSU, but it is not yet ready for circulation. All the Provost could relate is that we are "considering structural changes." What we are not considering, at least not yet, are International university requests. Responding to a query from a Senator about requests that were sent months ago, the Provost admitted that we need to streamline the process, and he claimed he would look into the issue.

"For last year's words belong to last year's language/And next year's words await another voice." (Regent report)

The next Board of Regents meeting is the May 11th work session. The 2017-18 budget will be proposed at that session and approved at the June meeting. Regent Berglee would particularly like to hear any questions or concerns faculty have about the budget. He is still attempting to get more information about the on-going IT infrastructure upgrade, which has been on the BOR books, but not itemized, since 2015. He is striving for transparency in IT finances.

Regent Berglee urged faculty to work with the new regent, Dr. Pidluzny. Regent Berglee knows first-hand the challenges that Dr. Pidluzny will face, especially in regards to perceptions of legitimacy. (Dr. Andrews frequently asserted that only a small number of faculty voted for Dr. Berglee. Thanks to the high turn out and impressive totals, neither Dr. Andrews nor any other interlocutor will be able to say the same of Dr. Pidluzny.) Although the overall membership of the Board will remain stable, Regent Berglee believes that the introduction of a new president and faculty regent will effect positive and productive change.

Before he concluded, Regent Berglee made a special point of thanking his colleague, Ric Caric, for Dr. (and Senator) Caric's tireless service and support. He appreciated having such a staunch ally with him every step of the way.

The Regent report ended with Senate Guerin thanking Dr. Berglee for his years of service (the body joined with a round of applause).

“Revive for a moment a broken Coriolanus” (Faculty Senate Committee Reports)

- **Governance:** The standing committee appointment slate passed earlier in the meeting.
- **Academic Issues:** At 5:00 p.m. next Thursday (the 27th) our new portal will be live. Some Senators expressed concern that the timing of this debut might be an issue, as we are changing the interface where grades are entered right before final exams, but this apparently cannot be helped, as we have a “drop dead” date of May 1st on the software we are currently using. (Aside: is anyone really surprised? Technology “updates” have been causing faculty and student to “drop dead” for over a decade.)
- **Evaluations:** Senator Tallichet provided packets of surveys for Senators to distribute in their departments. Completed surveys should be returned to departmental Senators, Evaluations Chair Tallichet, Chair Dobranski, or the Senate Office (AY 17) by May 5th.
- **Faculty Welfare and Concerns:** The PAc-27 revision passed earlier in the meeting.
- **Issues:** The resolution on the budget passed earlier in the meeting.

“HURRY UP PLEASE ITS TIME” (Motion to adjourn) The meeting ended promptly at 5:35 p.m. The body is scheduled to meet again on April 27th at 3:45 p.m.



Submitted by the 2016-2017 Faculty Senate Communications Officer, a fiend in feline shape who knows “The worlds revolve like ancient women/Gathering fuel in vacant lots.”

Appendix A: SPRING 2017 GOVERNANCE SLATE

Note: CCAHSS = Caudill College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences; CoE = College of Education; CoBT = College of Business & Technology; CoS = College of Science

TO BE VOTED ON DIRECTLY BY SENATE FOR APPOINTMENT:

ACADEMIC APPEALS

Jeffrey Hill	At-Large	2017-19
Jennifer Birriel	At-Large	2017-19
Fujian Tan	At-Large	2017-19
David Long	CoE	2017-19
Patricia Harrelson	CoS	2016-18 (remainder of term)

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Roma Prindle	CCAHSS	2017-21
Mykie Howard	Library	2017-21

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Joy Gritton	CCAHSS	2017-19
Ahmad Hassan	CoBT	2017-19

FACULTY PROMOTION

Nathan Coker	At-Large	2017-20
Steve Chen	At-Large	2017-20
Stacy Baker	At-Large	2017-20

GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Constance Hardesty	CCAHSS	2016-19 (remainder of term)
Kenneth Henderson	CoBT	2017-20
Chris Beckham	At-Large	2015-18 (remainder of term)

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Thomas Pannuti	CoS	2017-19
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LIBRARY

Helen Otterson	CCAHSS	2017-19
Chien-Chih Peng	CoBT	2017-19
Thomas Kmetz	Library	2017-19

REGISTRATION ADVISORY

Johnathan Nelson	CoBT	2017-19
Delar Singh	CoE	2017-19

RESEARCH & CREATIVE PRODUCTIONS

Richard Yeates	CCAHSS	2017-19
Michael Hail	CoBT	2017-19
Beverly Klecker	CoE	2017-19
Mark Blankenbuehler	CoS	2017-19
Dieter Ullrich	Library	2017-19

SCHOLARSHIP APPEALS & ADVISORY

Jason Bailey	CCAHS	2017-19
Kim Nettleton	CoE	2017-19

SERVICE

Mark Graves	CCAHS	2017-19
Chien-Chih Peng	CoBT	2017-19
Jason Griffith	Library	2017-19

STUDENT DISCIPLINARY

Lee Nabb	CoE	2017-19
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STUDENT LIFE

Morgan Getchell	CCAHS	2017-19
Tim O'Brien	CoS	2017-19

TENURE

Carole Olson	CCAHS	2017-20
Ahmad Hassan	CoBT	2017-20
Brian Reeder	CoS	2017-20

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

Julia Finch	CCAHS	2017-19
Julia Hypes	CoBT	2017-19
Shane Shope	CoE	2017-19
Tim Thornberry	CoS	2017-19

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE

Robyn Moore	CCAHS	2017-19
Teame Ghirmay	CoBT	2017-19
Edna Schack	CoE	2017-19
Jody Fernandez	CoE	2017-19
Patricia Harrelson	CoS	2017-19

SENATE VOTES TO APPROVE CANDIDATES, APPOINTMENT DETERMINED BY COLLEGE-WIDE ELECTION:

FACULTY RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Natasha Davis vs Tim Hare	CCAHS	2017-19
Kenneth Henderson vs Teame Ghirmay	CoBT	2017-19
Lola Aagaard-Boram vs Lesia Lennex	CoE	2017-19
Jennifer Dearden vs Jennifer Birriel	CoS	2017-19

PLANNING

Michael Hypes vs Sam Nataraj	CoBT	2017-21
Dieter Ullrich vs Jennifer Little	Library	2017-21

Appendix B: Resolution regarding the budget cuts

Whereas Academic Affairs was forced to make last minute in-year cuts totaling \$2.2 million last year (FY 2015-16), which amounts to 3.8% of its total budget, while Athletics was permitted to go over its opening budget by \$350,000 (+3.8%), and the President's office, over its opening budget by \$114,000 (+11.0%);¹

Whereas the FY 15-16 Fiscal & Administration budget (\$42.75 million) was only subject to a \$290,000 (or 0.68%) in-year cut, all of it and more achieved by the furlough;

Whereas it was determined, at the end of FY 2015-16, that the final \$1.4 million institutional budget shortfall should be the responsibility of Academic Affairs and Academic Affairs alone in 2017-18;

Whereas the Academic Affairs' opening budget for FY 2016-17 made even deeper cuts, totaling \$4.3 million, or 7.3%, relative to FY 2015-16;²

Whereas Academic Affairs has now been asked to cut a further 3% (\$1.4 million) of its "discretionary" budget for FY 2017-18 (which amounts to \$5.7 million in total, or 9.7% of the Academic Affairs budget, as compared to FY15-16);

Whereas the determination that fully 64.6% of the Educational & General (E&G) budget's "discretionary" spending resides in Academic Affairs, even though we only spend 32.5% of the E&G budget on instruction, disproportionately shifts the bulk of the 3% reduction of each division's total discretionary budget to Academic Affairs;³

Whereas this reduction would further decrease the proportion of the E&G budget the institution spends on instruction (down from 47.1% in 2005-06);

Whereas this cut, along with the recurring responsibility for the institution's 2015-16 overall budget shortfall, may jeopardize the accreditation of academic programs and dramatically increase our reliance on term and adjunct faculty to teach students at a time when progression and graduation rates are more critical than ever before;

Whereas as this decrease runs counter to the new model of performance funding, which rewards schools for the percentage of their budgets spent on instruction;

Whereas Morehead State already has the lowest percentage of instructional spending of all the regional schools, and is thus already at a disadvantage in terms of this metric of performance funding;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate strongly opposes the proposed 6% cut to the Academic Affairs budget for FY 2017-18 and enjoins the President to itemize the specific expenses that led to the most recent budget shortfall and propose fiscal solutions that shelter the core mission of the university, academics.

¹ All data provided is institutional data. To determine an in-year cut for 2015-16, actual “expenditures by division” (per the 2015-16 audited financial statements as reported in the Office of Budgets & Financial Planning’s “Financial Summary & Reporting Guidelines”) are compared to the opening budget for that division (as stated for FY 2015-16 in the 2016-17 budget).

² To determine year-to-year cuts, the opening budget for 2015-16 is compared to the opening budget for 2016-17.

³ Percentages of discretionary budget were provided in “Campus Forums: 2016-17 Operating Budget,” the PowerPoint President Andrews utilized in the Spring 2016 budget fora (see slide 9).