



FACULTY SENATE COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

November 30, 2017 meeting

“I passed through the seven levels of the Candy Cane forest, through the sea of swirly twirly gum drops, and then I walked through the Lincoln Tunnel.” (Overview)

Faculty Senate held its eighth official meeting on November 30th. It approved revisions of the General Education Council, Intercollegiate Athletics, and Student Disciplinary committees and discussed the implications of possible changes to PAC-2. It was also apprised of challenges the library faces and received updates from the Regent.

**“SANTA! OH MY GOD! SANTA'S COMING! I KNOW HIM! I KNOW HIM!”
(Announcements)**

- Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) hosted a pension reform meeting on campus on Monday November 27th. Information about revenue options that could offset the state’s pension liability can be found here: <http://kypolicy.org/dash/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Revenue-Options-2018-draft-10-30-17.pdf>.
- The Holiday Employee Appreciation Luncheon will be held on December 7th in Button Drill Room.
- Harry Floyd was unable to attend this Senate session. He will come to a January or February Senate meeting.
- Jill Ratliff and President Morgan will be attending the January 18, 2018 Senate meeting to seek feedback/comments on a draft of the new Strategic Plan.

“Now, before we learn how to build the latest extreme graphic chipset processors, let’s recite the code of the elves, shall we?” (Second reading of the revised PAC-2)

Senator Carlson presented the revised PAC-2 for a second reading. In response to Senate feedback, her committee:

- Changed reference to “department FEP” to “the candidate’s FEP”
- Specified that the 5 years at the rank of Associate professor had to be years with tenure
- Clarified that faculty members may only serve and vote on one Promotion committee

There was considerable discussion of the last two changes (the candidate’s years in rank with tenure and the level on which committee members should serve and vote). The current policy articulates what happens when a faculty member is hired at the rank of Associate Professor with tenure, but it does not offer any specific provisions for those hired at the rank of Associate Professor without tenure. This oversight has resulted in different candidates being subject to different requirements. The new specification of where committee members may serve and vote could, as some Senators noted, adversely affect departments with small numbers of full professors. There was much discussion of where committee members with expertise in a candidate’s discipline should participate and vote. There was also some consideration of what “serving” on a committee constituted, and some Senators suggested that it was acceptable for a faculty member on the college or university Promotion committee to participate in *discussion* of a candidate at the department level (assuming that member did not vote at the department level).

Because the body did not come to a consensus, the motion was tabled, and Senators were strongly encouraged to share the revised PAC with their constituents and solicit feedback. (Note: the body proposed two years in rank with tenure at MSU to conform with the provision for faculty hired as Associate Professors with tenure, who may be eligible to apply for promotion after two years of tenured service at MSU.)

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.” (Second reading of the standing committee revisions)

Senator Lennex presented revisions of the descriptions of five standing committees. The new descriptions of the Student Disciplinary Committee and General Education Council, which were updated to reflect title changes, were unanimously approved. The revised description of Intercollegiate Athletics, which modified membership parameters to be compliant with NCAA standards, was amended on the Senate floor to include the previous minimum meeting time of twice a semester. It was approved as amended.

The revisions of Excellence and Teaching and Research and Creative Productions, which were linked by virtue of the committee’s decision to move the recipients of the creative production, research, and service distinguished university awards from membership on the Teaching committee to membership on Research and Creative Productions, were tabled because a number of Senators questioned why the approval of sabbaticals would remain under the purview of Excellence in Teaching. This work, in their estimation, rightly belonged to the Research and Creative Productions committee.

Senator Lennex will be speaking to the members of Research and Creative Productions and working with her subcommittee to provide revised recommendations.

“Son of a nutcracker!” (Statement from the Librarians)

Senator Griffith read a statement from the librarians regarding the recent decision to move Career Services to the basement of the library:

Due to an unforeseen building issue, the entire basement of the library requires new carpet and other maintenance. This event was unfortunate, but the librarians saw it as an opportunity to provide a reconfigured space and/or new services for students. A planning committee was formed to discuss how to use this space once it is remodeled and it planned to meet with the Dean of Library Services to make its recommendations. However, before the committee had the opportunity to meet with the Dean, we were informed that the Career Services department would be moving into the remodeled space. The decision to move Career Services was made without the Dean's knowledge or consultation. This decision seems to have been made with little or no regard to how it would affect library services, students, or library employees. For example:

- The Gamers, a group that was identified as underserved by Student Life, had a space in the basement where they could meet and play games. Funding was provided to put in a dedicated gaming network and a large television and the space was utilized daily from the time the building opened until the time it closed. As a result of this move, those students will now be displaced.
- The bound periodicals that were located in the basement are currently being shifted to the 5th level of the stacks – which is not climate-controlled and does not have adequate space for all of those materials. Had there been time for planning or discussion, we could have addressed these issues beforehand, but as it is, this is the only space we can use on short notice.
- Because of moving the bound periodicals out of the basement and into the stacks, we will have to erect new shelving on the 2nd floor of the Tower to shift books from the stacks. The new shelving will occupy an area that was recently reconfigured to provide students with more space for individual and collaborative learning.
- A department of two employees, whose offices and storage room were in the basement, will be displaced.
- The library will lose a vast amount space that can be used to meet a variety of demands, such as the addition of more individual or collaborative learning space, room to grow our collection, or an area to house a MakerSpace or Writing Center.
- We have yet to be informed whether Career Services will be moving into the library permanently or if they will be here temporarily until ADUC reopens. This makes it difficult to adequately plan where to move materials and employees.

We do not wish to come across as territorial or unaccommodating. We are more than happy to share the building with other departments –the Tutoring and Learning Center and the Instructional Technology Center are both located in the library and we have maintained a great working relationship with both departments through the years. However, we are of the opinion that this decision should have been made in consultation with the Dean of Library Services, who could have addressed some of these issues and collaborated to find a solution that would have been less intrusive to the students, the library, and its staff.

In response, a number of Senators asserted that the new President has proven amenable to reasoned argument, and they urged the library to contact Dr. Morgan and present their concerns directly to him. Senator Griffith stated that such a meeting is being set up, and that the library has already drafted a report to be given at that time. Members of the Executive Council, who, by virtue of their leadership role on Senate, have regular meetings with the President, averred that they would be more than willing to address any concerns the library had with Dr. Morgan.

“It’s just nice to meet another human that shares my affinity for elf culture.” (Regent’s report)

The Board of Regents will meet on November 7th at 1:00 p.m. in CHER. One of the main items of business will be the approval of the biannual budget. We will be asking for an increase of a little over 3 million dollars to cover KERS costs (which will balloon once MSU has to pay \$0.84 to the pension system for every \$1.00 of employee salary). The real concern is that the precipitous rise in contribution requirements will cause more and more institutions to contract labor, a move that will further imperil the state system.

The Board will also be approving construction/renovation projects for presentation in Frankfort. The proposed project order has not changed: Combs (the eternal bridesmaid of renovation) is first on the list, followed by Lloyd Cassidy and the Vet Tech building. We are hopeful that the first two projects will get serious funding consideration.

The President will also be asking the Board to approve the sale of three properties: Sunnybrook Golf course, the area behind Center for Traditional Music, and the property in front of procurement services. While the property in front of procurement services is the only truly valuable entity, we are hoping that these sales will demonstrate to SACSCOC that we are serious about paying off our significant long-term debt (currently \$102.5m).

Our final FTE count is 7375, down roughly 400 from 5 years ago. This downward trajectory has been somewhat masked by our increase in dual credit high school offerings. Currently, over 10% of the credit hours MSU generates are dual credit. (CO aside: Many thanks to our current Regent for getting these figures disambiguated. Sometimes you can strangle jello and win.)

Dr. Morgan has asked to meet with the Regent on Monday for thoughts on Provost search. Please send Regent Pidluzny any suggestions you have for the job description and/or the make-up of the search committee.

“Oh, syrup and coffee? Why didn’t I think of that? Can I try some?” The Senate adjourned at 5:35 p.m. The next full meeting will be on January 18, 2018.



Submitted by the 2017-18 Faculty Senate Communications Officer, who knows that “he’s an *angry* elf.”