



## FACULTY SENATE COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

February 1, 2018 meeting

### **“Fasten your seatbelts; it’s going to be a bumpy night!” (Overview)**

Faculty Senate held its tenth official meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>. It passed a revised version of PAC-2 and was apprised of the progress of General Education reform.

### **“To those of you who do not read, attend the theatre, listen to unsponsored radio programs, or know anything of the world in which you live, it is perhaps necessary to introduce myself.” (Announcements)**

- The President will hold a Budget Forum for Academic Affairs on February 9<sup>th</sup> (from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.) in Button Drill Room.
- Governor Bevin’s [proposed budget](#) includes three methods for removal of tenured faculty: (1) cause, (2) elimination of programs/departments, and (3) financial exigency. #1 and #3 are already allowed in state statute. #2, which is a possible cause for elimination under our new PAC-26, is not. If adopted by the legislature, this would weaken the state statute regarding tenure.
- The AAUP is monitoring the threat to academic freedom posed by faculty being targeted on social media.
- The NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) will be open February 15<sup>th</sup> through June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Faculty have approached the Chair with a series of complaints:
  - Some books are not arriving at the bookstore in time for classes, and some texts instructors designated as “required” are available in the bookstore as “optional;”
  - Overrides are being given without faculty permission;
  - Time sensitive e-mails are going to “quarantine.”

Chair Tallichet will work with the Executive Council to address these issues.

- Winter term enrollment was up by 38 percent. (Some faculty who teach Winter term raised concerns about the pro-rating policy, which allows the rate to be adjusted after the classes have already begun, and faculty have committed to the course.)
- New staff performance assessment instruments are being developed.
- “Emerging Art Leaders of Eastern Kentucky” will hold an Arts Advocacy Event on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Coffee Tree Books. Participants will hear speakers and receive guidance on how to contact state representatives to advocate for arts funding. (The immediate goal of this event is to help restore funding for the Folk Arts Center).

**“The general atmosphere is very MacBeth-ish. . . what has, or is about to, happen?”  
(Second reading of PAc-2)**

Senator Carlson brought the revised PAc-2 back for yet another “second reading.” After noting that Senators had plenty of time to survey their constituents, she identified the main areas of concern: (1) the articulation of the number of years in rank needed before a candidate could apply for promotion, and (2) the level at which faculty members on more than one Promotion committee should vote.

After much discussion of the problems the policy may pose for faculty members hired at the rank of Associate Professor without tenure, and the necessity of a required tenure review (of some sort) before promotion at MSU, the body agreed upon this wording for lines 32-33: “Tenured faculty will be eligible to apply for promotion to Professor after the completion of five years of service at the rank of Associate Professor at MSU.” The body also determined that faculty must vote at the highest level of review, and added a new line to say that those hired at the rank of Associate Professor may include information from the last five years in their promotion portfolios.

The revised document, as amended, passed unanimously.

**“I don’t want to make trouble. All I want is a drink.” (Regent’s report)**

The Faculty Regent, who was attending an educational function in Washington DC, was not available to make a report. (Here’s to hoping that he, unlike that famous graduate of the Copacabana School of Acting, actually got a drink.)

**“I will regard this great honor not so much as an award for what I have achieved, but a standard to hold against that which I have yet to accomplish.” (Provost’s report)**

Dr. Laurie Couch, stepping in for the Provost, informed the body that the General Education Council would be reviewing the new General Education proposal this week. The draft will be posted to the General Education site for public commentary before the Counsel takes its vote. If adopted, the proposal will be enacted by an implementation taskforce. Dr. Couch cautioned the body that a new program would necessarily require gen ed courses to be re-proposed to fit the parameters of a new framework.

Senator Adams questioned why the deadline for formalized assessment plans came before the possible adoption of a new General Education program, particularly because a new program could substantively change the introductory gen ed courses of many stand-alone minors. Dr. Couch, who is not in charge of assessment, could not address that point in particular, but she did state that assessment is an area of concern in our reaffirmation efforts.

**“As it happens, there are particular aspects of my life to which I would like to maintain sole and exclusive rights and privileges.” (Senate committee reports)**

- Academic Issues (No report)
- Evaluation Committee (Evaluation will be working with Academic Issues to review FEPs. The committee needs FEPs from the following departments:
  - Art and Design
  - Music, Theatre, and Dance
  - History, Philosophy, Politics, International and Legal Studies
  - Computer Science and Information Systems and
  - Engineering and Technology Management
  - Agricultural Sciences
  - Earth and Space Sciences
  - Nursing
  - Psychology

Please send copies to Chair Tallichet, who will ensure that they are properly distributed.)

- Faculty Welfare and Concerns (The committee just passed its revision of PAc-2. They are also working on a new version of PAc-10, which will come to the Senate floor soon.)
- Governance (The committee put forward a slate of two candidates for approval: David Oyen for the At-Large position on Promotion, and Jennifer Dearden for a Spring semester-only replacement on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities. The slate was unanimously approved.)
- Issues Committee (Chair-Elect Hare and Regent Pidluzny met with the General Counsel and President Morgan to discuss role of the General Counsel, particularly as it involves the protection of faculty. The President agreed to developing a policy, a policy Chair-Elect Hare and Regent Pidluzny contended should be drafted with the aid of outside counsel. To facilitate this process, members of Issues are investigating relevant policy at other Kentucky institutions.)

**“Too bad, we’re gonna miss the third act. They’re gonna play it offstage.”** The Senate adjourned at 5:25 p.m. The next full meeting will be on February 15, 2018.



Submitted by the 2017-18 Faculty Senate Communications Officer, who may have “seen better days,” but is still “not to be had for the price of a cocktail, like a salted peanut.”