

Communications Report for Faculty Senate

August 16, 2018

Overview:

Faculty Senate (FS) held its first meeting of the 2018-2019 academic year. Final business from the previous year was conducted including a report from Provost Bob Albert about QEP and General Education. Then the newly-installed Faculty Senate, under the direction of new Chair, Dr. Timothy Hare, elected a new Executive Council and the next Chair-elect Dr. Lesia Lennex.

Announcements:

Former FS Chair Tallichet gave several updates and reminders from last year. As debated in FS during the last semester, PAc-2 governing promotion from Associate Professor to Professor was approved and signed by President Morgan in July. The version passed by the Senate occurred after we decided that the discussion about eliminating a college-level committee was best reserved for a later time. A copy of the approved version can be found on the Faculty Senate Blackboard site under "PAc Work."

UAR 331.01 forbids FS leadership from mass e-mailing faculty. Rather all such e-mails are supposed to go through the Provost's Office. This actually creates a hardship for the Provost and prevents FS leadership from directly communicating with all faculty directly. That is now on President Morgan's desk with our request to change the UAR so we can better communicate with faculty.

Lora Pace has updated last year's "Support Resources for Student Success." That can also be found on our FS Bb site under its own tab.

Chair Tallichet also reminded senators to pass on the reminder for faculty to complete the required online sexual harassment prevention training, *Mosaic: Prevent Discrimination and Harassment: Faculty and Staff* and that assessment deadlines were coming up in mid-September.

Two Resolutions Honoring Our Own:

Faculty Senate voted to suspend first readings on and promptly voted in unanimous favor of passing two resolutions honoring former FS Chair Michael Dobranski and former Faculty Regent Royal Berglee for their fine service during very difficult and contentious times. Copies of these resolutions can be found on the Senate Blackboard site under "Senate Actions."

Provost Report

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP):

Provost Bob Albert reported to the Senate that he was working on naming and convening the QEP Selection Team. Names were to be submitted by August 17 and he hoped to have the committee named by next week and convened as soon as possible. The committee will consist of a representatives from Faculty Senate, Staff Congress, the four Colleges, and students. Provost Albert will chair the committee with Jill Ratliff serving in an advisory capacity.

He also reviewed the timeline for the process saying that during Fall Semester 2018 the committee will be defining the parameters for pre-proposal submissions and then “whittling down those pre-proposals” during the semester. Then they will issue a call for white papers with the idea of wrapping up the process by the middle of Spring Semester 2019 with the adoption of QEP.

General Education (LUX):

Provost Albert reviewed the history of General Education reform. The General Education Taskforce worked to develop the General Education proposal (LUX). It went to the General Education Council (GEC) which supported it by a vote of 8-4. GEC also voted unanimously to defer further action on the proposal until there was more time to evaluate it. Then the GEC sent it to the Faculty Senate for further consideration. He has been in consultation with President Morgan about the process and they agreed that they did not want to rush though this at this point in time. “Something as big as this needs more a little more attention,” he said.

Provost Albert said he had met with Faculty Senate Chair Tim Hare and Faculty Regent Jonathan Pidluzny and they have agreed on a path forward by creating another work group consisting of “a couple members from the General Education Taskforce, the General Education Council, Faculty Senate, an individual to represent the Deans and one to represent the Chairs” and will also include the Assessment Office Director (Shannon Harr). The group will evaluate the LUX proposal “on a couple of parameters, namely the financial viability of supporting the program; how it fits with the Strategic Plan; how it fits with CPE requirements; how it fits into the Performance-Based Funding Model and a few other parameters.” Provost Albert will be meeting with Drs. Hare and Pidluzny to finalize that work group membership and set a timeline. While they want to take the time to work through this evaluation, they want to do so expeditiously.

President Morgan was in attendance today as he usually is. He had no report at this time and although he was willing to take any questions from Senators, no one had any today. Note that if you do have questions for President Morgan, ask your Faculty Senate representative to make that inquiry for you during one of the regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meetings. Note also that a few times during the semester, the FS Executive Council meets with the President and Provost to discuss matters and your questions can be brought forward at that time, too.

Faculty Senate Committee Reports from 2017-2018

Chair Tallichet asked for any final reports from any of the five FS Committees. Two committees had brief reports. Governance Committee Chair Lesia Lennex announced that if you are checking your own membership on a Standing Committee, you may consult the Faculty Senate website. She added that if you are on a Standing Committee, your committee should have had an organizational meeting by September 15.

Evaluations Committee Chair Jennifer Dearden reported that departmental FEPs were collected last year by the committee and sent to the Provost's where they belong. The committee also developed a routing form for the future approval of departmental FEP revisions.

And without any further business, outgoing Faculty Senate Chair Tallichet gaveled adjournment one last time and then received a gavel of her own.



"Henry! Our party's total chaos! No one knows when to eat, where to stand, what to... Oh, thank God! Here comes a border collie!"

New Year, New Faculty Senate and New Chair

New Faculty Senate Chair Tim Hare began his announcements asking for Senators to clarify membership on our updated lists.

A Joint Staff Congress/Faculty Senate Resolution about Cuts

Next Chair Hare presented a resolution passed by Staff Congress requesting that President Morgan and the Board of Regents seek measures for budget cutting other than cutting people and benefits. The resolution was sent to Faculty Senators in advance of the August 16th meeting and can be found on the Senate Blackboard site under "Senate Actions."

At Chair Hare's invitation, Staff Congress Chair Clarissa Purnell addressed the Senate saying that although staff understand that MSU is overstaffed in relation to other universities of the same size, staff still feel that it is important that their concerns are heard and that units are adequately staffed. It should be added that the resolution included language about lost faculty lines during last year, loss of University-sponsored dental insurance and increases to health insurance premiums for all employees. She said she was inviting us to get behind the resolution with staff.

Senator White spoke in favor of the resolution saying his constituents could accept this resolution. He made the first motion to suspend the first reading of it. The motion to suspend was seconded and the vote passed with a few nays. Subsequently, another Senator motioned to consider the resolution as a second reading. That motion was seconded and the resolution passed with a few nays in favor of joining on with Staff Congress.

At that time, President Morgan sought clarification regarding the resolution asking if the resolution meant that "we don't want to lose more people involuntarily, but in order to reduce costs and not cut benefits, it's okay to not refilling positions?" Chair Hare affirmed that was so. The President continued saying, "So it's okay to find savings in other non-personnel areas? Or not filling positions?" Chair Hare said that was his understanding.

Election of Executive Council

Senate elected the following Senators to Executive Council and made the following committee assignments. (Note that Faculty Senate consists of five committees: Academic Issues; Evaluations Committee; Faculty Welfare and Concerns; Governance Committee; Issues Committee. Each one is chaired by a member of the Executive Council which meets every Monday before regularly scheduled Faculty Senate Meetings.):

Dr. Robin Blankenship, Chair Evaluations Committee

Dr. Katy Carlson, Chair Faculty Welfare and Concerns Committee

Dr. Dirk Grupe, Chair Academic Issues Committee

Dr. Nilesh Joshi, Chair Issues Committee

Dr. Lesia Lennex, Chair Governance Committee

*Chair-elect for Faculty Senate 2018-2019 is Dr. Lesia Lennex

Congratulations to all. Chair Hare and the Faculty Senate look forward to a challenging but productive year.

Report submitted to all MSU faculty and beyond by Sue Tallichet, Communications Officer