

# Communications Report for Faculty Senate

November 1, 2018

## Overview:

Faculty Senate (FS) held its seventh meeting of the 2018-2019 academic year in Rader 111. Faculty Senate Chair Hare made several announcements regarding deadlines for registration, research & creative productions deadlines, revising the FS Constitution and proxy rules. President Morgan made some announcements about Provost Albert remaining in that position for next year and changes to the UAR regulating the distribution of F&A funds. Provost Bob Albert relayed that the Deans have agreed to FS's PAC-2 revision and talked about IDEA forms and possible alternatives. Regent Pidluzny reported on the October 19<sup>th</sup> BOR meeting including the recent audit, an enrollment increase, and the status of the President's house. Senator Tallichet reported on the progress of the LUX General Education Evaluation and Implementation Review Committee. FS Committees gave reports of their current tasks. Specifically, Faculty Welfare and Concerns reviewed PAC-27 due to an internal contradiction. The Governance Committee will select a Diversity Council representative from FS. Senators passed a Governance recommendation to renew the Excellence in Teaching Committee. Governance and Issues Committees continue their work on the FS Constitution.

## Announcements:

Chair Hare made the following announcements:

Governor Matt Bevin and Ivanka Trump visited the Space Science Center on Friday, October 26. The visit was a surprise and there was not a lot of information about it beforehand.

Registration for Winter Term and Spring Semester 2019 begins today, November 1 and runs through Tuesday, November 13.

Research & Creative Productions Summer Fellowship Proposals are due November 5.  
Nominations for Distinguished Researcher & Creative Productions Awards are due December 10.

Chair Hare, again, reminded Senators and those in attendance that all Faculty Senate meetings are open. This was particularly important since FS will be revising the FS Constitution. He urged Senators to contact their constituents regarding suggestions for revisions and to provide that feedback to either him ([t.hare@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:t.hare@moreheadstate.edu)), Governance Chair Lesia Lennex ([l.lennex@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:l.lennex@moreheadstate.edu)) or Issues Committee Chair Nilesch Joshi ([n.joshi@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:n.joshi@moreheadstate.edu)).

At the last FS meeting there was question about the extent to which a proxy may participate. Chair Hare said that according to our Constitution a proxy can only act

according to what the Senator they are replacing has specified. Furthermore, that specification has to be in writing to the FS Chair prior to the meeting during which the proxy participates. An e-mail would suffice. He also clarified that a proxy cannot make motions and they can only vote if they have written permission to do so by the Senator they are replacing.

## President's Report

President Morgan attended the FS meeting today and had some brief but important announcements. First, he thanked Dr. Bob Albert, who has been our Interim Provost this year, for agreeing to serve in that capacity one more year (2019-2020). At Dr. Morgan's request, Senate gave Provost Albert a hearty round of applause. Second, he announced a change in UAR 142.01 (Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Cost Recovery Distribution) which defines the distribution of F&A funds from externally-funded grants and contracts. Unlike the previous version of this UAR, the new version gives Principal Investigators (PIs) 10% of the balance in recovered F&A above that of recurring fixed costs. Dr. Mike Henson was also very instrumental behind the scenes in making this change happen. Third, Dr. Morgan requested some time to speak with FS at its January 17 meeting, the first meeting of the new Spring Semester 2019. He wants to talk about the budget and "some things we are trying to do this year. Nothing scary," he said, "Just a little bit of an update." Fourth, he mentioned that a new state law sign was now in the crosswalk in front of Baird Building. Senator Prindle expressed her thanks. There were no questions for the President.

## Provost Report

Provost Albert had a few announcements today. First, he said the Deans had discussed FS's proposed changes to PAC-2 (Promotion to Full Professor) eliminating the College Promotion Committee. The Deans have agreed to our changes and Provost Albert said he was prepared to sign off on it. He said the next relevant issue was when the new version of PAC-2 would be in effect. The plan is to get the new PAC-2 before the BOR in December so that it could be used next Spring Semester 2019. To date, Provost Albert said he knew of only one candidate coming forward next semester, but he said that could change between now and when portfolios are due to the Chairs or Associate Deans by January 11, 2019.

Second, the company that makes the IDEA student evaluation of teaching forms has decided to make only the online format available starting Fall 2019. The Deans have discussed it some and they think it is important for FS to discuss that change, too. He asked "should we consider an alternative type of student evaluation of teaching instrument?" He continued saying that the Deans thought "Faculty Senate should take the lead on deciding, on recommending what we might want to do in that regard." He added that the IDEA instrument costs us \$9K per year. Senator Grupe asked if there could be more evaluations. Provost Albert said we could begin addressing these questions and discussing the issue at this point. There were no questions for the Provost.

## Regent's Report

Regent Pidluzny reported that there was a BOR audit subcommittee meeting and work session on October 19. The audit subcommittee heard a report from external auditors, who also took questions. The audits were clean. The auditors reported no issues and explained to the BOR that they had effectively issued the most positive opinion they are able to offer. The internal audit, which focused on NCAA fund expenditures, the president's expenditures, and purchases in a several units, also turned up no concerning issues. The auditing firm will now turn to testing the institution's processes and procedures related to purchase orders, change requests, budget transfers, etc., in an effort to ensure the institution has adopted best practices in these areas.

"This is also a good time to assess institutional priorities insofar as the BOR was provided final revenue and expenditure numbers for fiscal year 2018. They "show us the direction the institution is going," said Regent Pidluzny. After scholarship expenses our tuition revenue has been relatively constant, "remarkably stable," right around \$36 million for several years. Even though we have increased tuition rates over the last four years, we have not seen large increases in tuition revenue due to a decline in the number of total students and modest increases in scholarship expenses over the last several years. As we begin to graduate our largest cohorts, total enrollment will fall even as we begin to rebuild our entering class. That accounts for the revenue pressure on the tuition side we will continue to feel going forward for the next few years. However, this year our entering class is up 10%. That will help us on the revenue side in two ways over the long term— both with respect to tuition (as we enroll subsequent classes larger than our AY15, AY16 and AY17 cohorts), and under the metrics of the new state funding formula — which drives funds to the institution on the basis of students hitting 30/60/90 hours, SCH generation, and graduation numbers. "Enrollment services is doing an excellent job," he said. "Other institutions have either had stable or declining entering classes while we increased by 10 percent."

He also pointed out that for the last ten years we have seen a decline in proportion the institution spends on instruction as a functional category (31.1%). We bottomed out this year, which is the last budget passed by the previous administration, and we can expect to see instructional spending tick up modestly this year (to 33.6% in FY19 budget). He noted that this is the first significant increase in spending on instruction at MSU in budget-proportionate terms in over a decade.

Finally, if you look at our overall balance sheet, it looks like our liabilities exceed our financial assets. This is due to our share of the state's large unfunded pension liability, which is a burden to all regional universities in KY. During this past year that liability actually declined since the state made its full ARC payment into the pension fund. From the audit figures, he said, "it seems like we are moving in the right direction, but we are still facing challenges."

The remaining items reported on by Regent Pidluzny from the BOR meeting was about the status of the President's house. Policy requires the BOR to approve any significant change or maintenance to the President's house. VP for Facilities Kim Oatman has been reporting to the BOR on this issue. MSU is contracting with an architectural firm that specializes in historic buildings to evaluate the President's home and determine what is the best path going forward. They have finished their visit and they have done a preliminary assessment which they presented to the BOR. The hope is that during the next 18 months, the problem can be mitigated by remediating the basement, changing the HVAC system including the vents, and by redoing some of the drainage. The hope is now that it won't be necessary to excavate and treat the foundation. The firm's strong recommendation is that after taking these first steps the institution let the house sit for a year to ensure the causes of water infiltration have been

addressed. The firm doing the analysis will issue further recommendations to the BOR at a later meeting.

Regarding his work with the Issues Committee, Regent Pidluzny said they were working on an assessment of the institution's revenues, expenditures, and budget priorities in comparison with in-state and out of state peers. He promised to provide a more detailed report at an upcoming meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let him know ([j.pidluzny@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:j.pidluzny@moreheadstate.edu)).

## General Education Report

No report. The next meeting of the General Education Council is Monday, November 12 from 3-4:30pm. Chair Hare noted that is the last Monday before the last FS meeting for the Fall Semester 2018 on November 15.

## General Education LUX Review Report

Senator Tallichet, who chairs the LUX Evaluation and Implementation Review Committee reported that the committee is preparing surveys to be given to three groups of stakeholders: faculty (tenured and tenure track, visiting assistant professors, instructors and grad teaching assistants); staff (fractionalized staff, academic advisors, Enrollment Services Staff and Registrar's Office Staff); and administrators (Deans, Associate Deans and Chairs). The surveys have been submitted to IR at this point and they will be available between November 13 until November 27. Senator Tallichet said that once the committee receives the analytics from the surveys, they will be generating a report and proceed on the basis of that information. She strongly urged faculty to look for the survey and to participate in the review process.

## Faculty Senate Committee Reports

Academic Issues: Committee Chair Grupe reported that the committee met last week during which they worked on making comparisons with other peer institutions and deciding which ones to use. They will also be looking into enrollment. They plan on meeting again next week and preparing a report.

Evaluation Committee: Chair Blankenship reported that they are collecting information from other peer schools about how the role of Faculty Senate is viewed at those institutions. They are also looking into communication on campus between various committees.

Faculty Welfare and Concerns: Chair Carlson presented a revised version of PAc-27 due to the discovery of an internal contradiction in the document. In Section 6, the Deans are required to evaluate tenure candidates annually and those letters are required to be in the candidate's portfolio. In Section 8, #4, the Dean's letters are required to be in the tenure candidate's portfolio during only three years of the five years. She proposed deleting one or the other statements in order to remedy the contradiction. More specifically, she and her committee proposed that a "cleaner" way to do so was to require annual reviews by Deans in the portfolios.

Senator White asked if we knew how the Deans feel about doing annual evaluations. Provost Albert said that in the COB, they changed from doing annual reviews of all tenure track several years ago. Prior to that, they had done annual reviews. He said they were weighing in on pivotal years for candidates. He thought that system worked well and there were no concerns. However, he said he had not spoken with the other Deans about it. Chair Carlson added that it would be prudent to ask the Deans since they would be directly affected. Senator Schack suggested that at least a memo from the Dean be included in those "off" years. Provost Albert concurred. Senator Blankenship used a personal example to argue for annual reviews by Deans.

This was a first reading of a suggested revision to PAC-27. It is posted on the FS Blackboard site.

Governance Committee : The committee has been tasked with finding a FS representative to serve on the Diversity Council being formed by Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Caroline Atkins. Chair Hare had sent an e-mail earlier asking for a volunteer. He said he had two names of people interested being the FS representative on the Diversity Council, which he sent to the Governance Committee. He said he assumed that eventually this would be a standing committee that the FS Governance Committee would help populate. Governance Chair Lennex said while they did not know if it was going to be a standing committee or not, they were to select a Senator to serve on the Diversity Council and she has the two names from Chair Hare. She asked for any more volunteers from Senate. There were none at this time. Chair Lennex also said that since the Diversity Council was not yet a standing committee the FS representative on it did not need to be approved by FS. Without further discussion, the Governance Committee will supply the name of the FS representative to the Diversity Council.

Chair Lennex also presented her committee's recommendation regarding the Excellence in Teaching Committee. Chair Hare explained that due to changes at the university and over time, this recommendation was necessary for the functioning of the committee itself. This recommendation would address the issues that have come up and very shortly the Governance Committee would be developing a supporting description of the Excellence in Teaching Committee. FS passed the recommendation unanimously. It is posted on the FS Blackboard site.

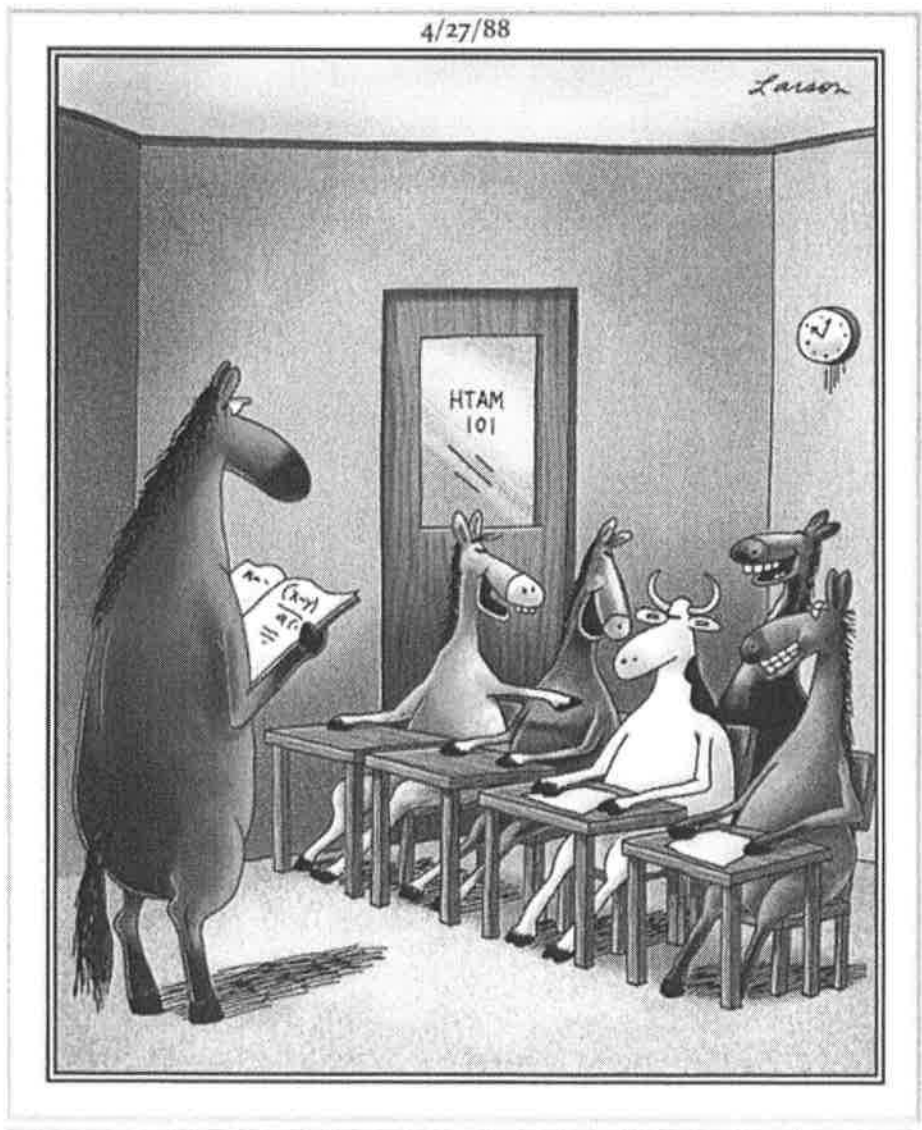
Issues Committee: Chair Joshi reported that his committee had a joint meeting with the Governance Committee over revising the FS Constitution. Substantive changes being made to the Constitution will be reported on at the next FS meeting on November 15.

## New Business

There was some discussion brought by Senator White who was asking about health benefits for one of his constituents. Senator White was trying to find out to whom he could direct his colleague's questions. During the discussion, it was revealed that the Employee Benefits Committee had not met despite Governance Chair Lennex request made six weeks ago. Chair Hare said "this is something we need answers about," and he said he would contact the chair of the Employee Benefits Committee. He asked that any questions faculty have be sent to either him or Faculty Regent Pidluzny.

Following some extended discussion about administrative fiat, budget woes, the old furlough and new construction on campus, Chair Hare said that he though the President would be addressing many of these issues and that we could ask him directly about them when he comes to speak to FS on January 17.

Otherwise, with no further business, Chair Hare adjourned the meeting.



Her answer off by miles, Sheila's "cow sense" was always a target of ridicule.

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