

# Communications Report for Faculty Senate

January 17, 2019

## Overview:

Faculty Senate (FS) held its ninth meeting of the 2018-2019 academic year in ADUC 329. Faculty Senate Chair Tim Hare made several announcements regarding an upcoming February 4<sup>th</sup> Constituency Reception with President Morgan, the new attendance tracking system, newly available student success data, assessment timelines, Research and Creative Productions Annual Report entries and work on the revised Faculty Senate Constitution. President Morgan reported on tuition waivers and a possible agreement with KCTCS and took questions from Senators about facilities. Provost Bob Albert reported on creating a committee to establish an alternative to IDEA student evaluations and the possibility of creating an excellence in teaching award for Instructors and/or Visiting Assistant Professors. Regent Pidluzny reported on the December 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Regents (BOR) meeting that included passing PaC 2 and hearing budget reports, enrollment figures and metrics tied to state funding. LUX Review Committee Chair Tallichet gave an update and announced that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 22. FS Committees gave reports of their current tasks. Specifically, the Governance and Issues Committees presented the first reading of the revised FS Constitution.

Note that FS meetings are open meetings. Faculty Senate will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on February 7 at 3:45pm in ADUC 321. Please note the room change.

## Announcements:

Following the FS approval of the 11/15/2018 meeting minutes, Chair Hare made the following announcements:

-FS is invited to a Constituency Reception on Monday, February 4 from 11:45am until 1pm in the Caudill Heritage Room on the third floor of ADUC. Staff Congress and Student Government representatives have also been invited. All are invited to come and go as their schedules permit. Light refreshments will be served.

-The Self Service module now features a new attendance tracking system that we are required to use. Instructions were sent to all faculty and are also posted on the FS Blackboard site under today's agenda. There is a place to mark attendance for every class date for F2F classes. For online classes there is one date available per week to mark attendance. Dates are added as the semester progresses. Chair Hare also explained that for federal financial aid purposes, we will need to track students in both F2F and online classes for the first two weeks of the semester. However, after checking with VP Laurie Couch, Chair Hare explained that for student retention and advising purposes, faculty are being asked to continue the attendance tracking on Self

Service over the entire semester. At this point in time, faculty are not able to use the data we enter for our own purposes.

-Student success metrics and profile online data portals are available. Chair Hare attached the document that explains the available data and two links to those reports to today's FS agenda on our FS Blackboard site. It is also featured in the Regent's Report below.

-Edits for the final draft of our 2018-2019 WEAVE reports are due on January 31. General Education assessment data on SLOs are due Tuesday, January 22.

-Research and Creative Productions will be generating their annual report and will be drawn from Faculty 180 as of February 1.

-FS Constitution as revised will be getting a first reading today. If you have further revisions or suggestions to Governance Committee Chair Lesia Lennex (l.lennex@moreheadstate.edu), or Issues Committee Chair Nilesh Joshi (n.joshi@moreheadstate.edu).

## President Report

President Morgan reported that the waiver system has been extended until the end of the Spring 2019 semester. Beyond that, he said, "most everybody (at other institutions) has said, we won't do it anymore. We have looked at some data and have been in conversation with KCTCS. We have about a 100 to 105 KCTCS employees here taking courses now. I mention this because many of them may be in your programs. Starting this summer they will pay 25 percent tuition." He continued saying that MSU has entered into some discussions with KCTCS and eventually would like to enter into an exclusive agreement with KCTCS where these students come here only and pay 25 percent tuition. It is one way to boost to our enrollment. Other schools are not interested in this even though there are another 600 KCTCS employees taking courses around the state. So in the end all these employees will be making a choice between paying 100 percent tuition at other institutions or one-quarter tuition at ours.

President Morgan asked Senators to pass this along to their faculty constituents and chairs because "you could get flooded –and it would be a good thing -- with people wanting to know about transfers from other institutions. And I think is is an opportunity for us to really bring in a good number of students." He asked faculty to talk to these students when they call and "reasonably transfer their credits without breaking our policies."

During the question-and-answer session that followed, Senator Blankenship asked President Morgan about removing the blue paint from the brick between Lappin and Combs Buildings. She complained about the blue paint spray on the nearby vegetation. President Morgan said that it has come to his attention when he and Facilities VP Kim Oatman were walking through that area. Essentially, it is on the list of items to which the Administration will attend.

Senator Schack asked if the bicycle racks that are leaning up against Lappin could be put back in use. President Morgan said he would check into it. He also reminded Senators that the MSU Bicycle Program was scheduled to come out this spring.

Senator Blankenbuehler asked the President what was going to become of the Third Street Eats Building. At this point according to President Morgan, there have been some ideas floated but there are no definite plans as yet depending on the shuffle of buildings and removal of equipment from them. "It is an available facility. We would like to use it somehow." Senator Blankenship asked if there could be a salad bar put in at the other end of campus from the Rock where there is a salad bar now. President Morgan replied that it was possible as food vendors come and go.

## Provost Report

Provost Albert reported on two items of interest today. First, he said that the cost of using IDEA forms for student evaluations of faculty was going to increase from \$9K to \$24K per year. He was putting together a committee to examine alternatives. He said the "committee will consist of a Dean representative, a Chair representative, somebody from the assessment area and four faculty members from each of the Colleges who I will be asking Senate to identify for us." He will send the request for faculty members and the committee charge to Chair Hare. Later, Senator Grupe asked Provost Albert about revising PaC 27 regarding an alternative to IDEA. Provost Albert said that there would be a number of policies that would have to be revisited.

Provost Albert also said that even though nominations for the Excellence in Teaching Award are a tad late, the call for nominations is out. Please think about nominating someone and submitting your nomination to the Excellence in Teaching Committee. The deadline is February 14. Provost Albert said he had also been asked about establishing an award for an Instructor or Visiting Assistant Professor similar to the Distinguished Teacher Award. The idea had come up in the Dean's Council that there were some outstanding Instructors and VAPs who were not eligible for the award. He said he wanted feedback from FS on this idea.

## Regent's Report

Regent Pidluzny reported on the December 6th BOR meeting, during which the Board took the following actions:

- Approved Pac-2, Fall 2018 Semester graduates, routine personnel actions, and a minor (formatting) revision to the BOR bylaws.
- Approved Budget amendments for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY18, and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter FY19. There were no concerning budget amendments for FY19. Of note, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter revenues were marginally higher than originally projected, mainly as a result of increased athletics revenue and slightly higher than anticipated tuition and fees revenue. While both figures are modest, these are positive developments. It's been a long time since Fall tuition revenue exceeded budget projections. This reflects improved management of the institution.

- The BOR also reviewed the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financial statements. The institution's balance sheet has improved in several places on a year over year comparison.
  - Total assets have increased by \$4m;
  - Total long-term debt has fallen \$6m;
  - Net pension liability is reported as \$80m lower thanks to higher state pension contributions (this is partly offset by deferred revenue inflows).

In all, though, we appear to be somewhat stronger financially on paper.

- The BOR heard a report on performance metrics. We're doing very well here, having made considerable progress toward our CPE-negotiated 2020-21 targets. The dashboard can be reviewed by faculty and staff at this webpage: [www.moreheadstate.edu/student\\_success\\_metrics](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/student_success_metrics)
  - We have already met several targets, including underrepresented minority (URM) enrollment, progress of underprepared students in Math and English, 6-yr low income student graduation rate, 6-yr URM student graduation rate, URM retention rate, # of degrees awarded
  - We are making progress in other areas as well, and appear poised to meet most of our targets.

The BOR saw a demonstration of the new dashboard filter feature. This allows the institution to quickly assess the progress/performance of subpopulations. Determining where we face challenges is a necessary first step if we wish to remediate them effectively. The new software was funded by a CPE grant.

- Related, IR has updated how it presents some institutional data. The MSU Profile, and a new graphical representation of key indicators called the "MSU Nutshell." Both are available at the following webpage: <https://www.moreheadstate.edu/Administration/PPE/Institutional-Research/Institutional-Data>

- The BOR heard a Fall 2018 Semester enrollment report containing some good news:
  - First time degree seeking UG landed at 1473, up from 1333 the prior year
  - Our URM retention rate was an outstanding 78.0%
  - Our total URM student population grew more than 10%, up from 723 to 805
  - Our GRS retention rate for the 2017-18 cohort improved to 73.7%
  - Our average ACT score was up another 0.1 point, from 23.0 to 23.1 (up from 22.2 five years ago)
  - FTE enrollment nonetheless fell 159 students, from 7375 to 7216 due to the graduation of a large cohort.
  - FTE graduate enrollment fell by 36 students, from 465 to 429.

- The administration has been working on the 2019-20 budget. Known pressures make this a challenging budget year: while there remains uncertainty around KY pensions, the KERS rate is slated to skyrocket for FY20; the performance funding model will reduce our appropriation further next year; as we continue to graduate large cohorts, tuition revenue will continue to decline with enrollment numbers; barring an unforeseen development, the continued decline in the number of Saudi students enrolled at MSU will have a revenue effect.
- The BOR's next meeting is a work session, scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Mt. Sterling regional campus. The next regular meeting of the BOR is March 28<sup>th</sup> in ADUC.

## Staff Congress Report

No report.

## General Education Report

No report. Chair-Elect Lennex reported that the General Education Council has not met.

## General Education LUX Review Report

Senator Tallichet, who chairs the LUX Evaluation and Implementation Review Committee reported that the committee will be meeting on Tuesday, January 22 to begin review of LUX based on the summary report from the survey results given to faculty, staff and administrators.

## Faculty Senate Committee Reports

Academic Issues: Committee Chair Grupe reported that his committee is working with the Staff Congress Benefits Committee chaired by Staff Congress Representative Shana Savard-Hogge and Faculty Regent Pidluzny. It has come to their attention that the two lists of peer institutions for benefits and compensation provided by the Administration are different. Chair Grupe said this strikes him as "cherry picking" in favor of lower salaries, particularly for Assistant Professors at Morehead State, and better-looking benefits among in-state institutions. The committee will be meeting with Regent Pidluzny next week and then with HR Director Harold Nally about these issues.

Faculty Welfare and Concerns: No report today.

Evaluation Committee: Chair Blankenship reported that her committee will resume their work next week after working with other Senate Committees on revising the FS Constitution. They are working on questions for surveys about Chairs and Deans.

Governance Committee and Issues Committee: Chair Lennex and Chair Joshi presented the revised FS Constitution as a first reading. According to SACS reaccreditation requirements, as Chair Hare had previously explained, our FS Constitution needs to be approved by the BOR

every two years. This revisited version will be presented to the BOR in March. The last time our FS Constitution was revised was 2010. Some of the notable changes are:

- Makes tenure track faculty eligible after one year of service
- Reduces a Senator's term from three to two years
- Reduces the number of FS Committees from five to four by dissolving the Issues Committee
- Changes the term "Chair" to "President"

Senator Grupe asked for further clarification about FS Committee's tasks. Senator Schack asked if the committee titles could be worded more positively, more positively than "concerns" and "issues." Governance Committee Chair Lennex asked that changes to be sent to her in writing so they could be considered by her committee and added as a friendly amendment. If accepted, such a revision would be given to Chair Hare who would put it on the FS Blackboard website for faculty review. Since the next FS meeting is February 7, she asked that any suggested changes be sent to her before February 1 so they could be appropriately considered.

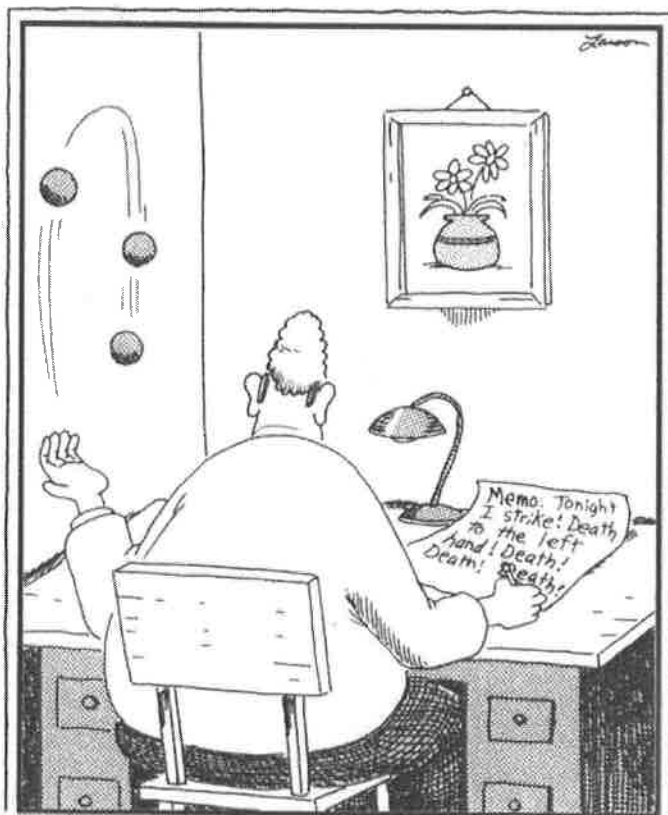
In more discussion that followed, Governance Committee Chair Lennex responded to some of the highlighted changes listed above. Senator Carlson asked about keeping two Senators per department in the FS Constitution at a time when the number of faculty is dwindling. Governance Chair Lennex explained that they were "crossing their fingers" regarding the numbers in favor of maintain "equal representation across campus." Senator Carlson also pointed out that the Communication Officer's duties have not included taking minutes. That is done by the FS Secretary. This will need to be corrected. In reference to Article 6, Section 4 underlined change, Regent Pidluzny asked about the event when FS holds a summer meeting which would only draw on faculty who are teaching in the summer and not faculty who were not teaching because all tenure-track (a.k.a. full standing faculty) are on nine-month contracts. Senator Grupe remarked that a small group of faculty could take advantage of that situation. Regent Pidluzny reminded Senators that "a couple of years ago there were some very important summer meetings where several unanimous resolutions were sent to the Board that were very impactful about PaC 26. We would effectively be limiting the opportunity for a special meeting." Chair Hare agreed with Regent Pidluzny saying that while "it is reasonable to excuse (faculty members') participation in the summer when they aren't here, but ... there should be the opportunity for them to participate and to vote." Governance Chair Lennex explained that the sentence was not meant to preclude participation, but simply not to require their participation in the summer. Senator Grupe said that a Senator was obligated to serve regardless of the circumstances including if they were out of town during the summer. Senator Dearden suggested that Senators use a proxy. While that was a good idea, Governance Chair Lennex warned that proxies could only stand in for specific votes and specific circumstances which had to be documented by the Senator arranging the proxy. Senator Blankenship pointed out that the summer meeting quorum was only one-third relative to regular meetings requiring a majority of the membership. She asked about the possibility of summer votes online. Governance Chair Lennex agreed that this would be a good suggestion, a friendly amendment, that could be made before the second reading. Senator Schack remarked that we would need to check on state open meeting laws and voting online. Governance Chair Lennex said she

thought that could be done institutionally. Senator Schack also asked about enforcing the FS attendance policy. Chair Hare remarked that the rule had been enforced in the past so FS was able to improve participation. But beyond FS, the ramifications for being removed from FS is a departmental matter where “colleagues are being forced to do more because you are not.” Governance Committee Chair added it was a commitment to adequately represent your department.

In sum, there is still time to suggest changes to FS Constitution. Your representative should have distributed that revised FS Constitution for your perusal. Please send your suggested revisions in writing to either Governance Chair Lennex or Issues Chair Joshi. If accepted by the committees working on the FS Constitution, you will be notified and your suggested change will be considered at the second reading by the full Faculty Senate.

## New Business

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



Innocent and carefree, Stuart's left hand didn't know what the right was doing.

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

