

Faculty Senate (FS) Communications Report

The 8th regular meeting of the MSU Faculty Senate occurred on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 3:45pm in ADUC 326.

Chair Lennex announced the following documents were now available under “Meeting Documents” on the MSU Faculty Senate Blackboard (BB) shell:

- Minutes from FS Meeting December 5, 2019
- UAR 106.05
- Dr. Sue Tallichet discussion Dec 5, 2019.
- Prohibited Policy Expenditures

Announcements from Chair Lennex:

- The Campus Climate survey was sent and should be viewable in your MSU email. It will look like it is coming from Dr. Atkins, but it is actually from the *Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium*. The survey availability dates are Jan 15-27. Contact Caroline Atkins if you are missing the survey. The money to pay for this came from the Diversity Funds.
- Be sure to complete Attendance Tracking through the 2nd week of class.
- Review the New UAR 908.01 *Conflicts of Interest in Scholarships and Institutional Awards*. The link is on FS BB.
- UAR 106.05 Academic Bankruptcy was approved and was updated to the HR website-link on FS BB.
- The *Prohibited Policy Expenditures* document can be found on the FS BB site. This document discusses how we can spend money. Immediately, this announcement presented an opportunity for some questions about the policy.

Discussion:

Senator Blankenship asked how this policy affects faculty who may be in the room with students who are drinking coffee or having food at a club activity? Response from Chair Lennex was that you should neither participate, nor not participate...you are essentially in the room.

Senator Sharp asked if the administration considered expenditures related to funds that faculty or staff contributed to the University. Sharp spoke specifically regarding her contribution that is earmarked to her department. If the policy is not reversed, she will be rescinding her contribution of \$1 per day to her department.

At this point, Dr. Morgan asked if he could take some time to update FS on the background for the Prohibited Policy Expenditures.

Dr. Morgan stated that this was NOT a new policy, in fact most of these policies had already been in place. This review of the policy was a result of purchasing card abuse. Dr. Morgan shared that internal and forensic auditors were brought in to look at purchasing issues and the findings showed some abuses that were very significant. Auditors provided a report on where purchases were off-track and oftentimes, staff

were not following policies that were already on the books. Morgan asked what expenses were “abnormal” and found that we have many and significant areas where purchasing was described as abnormal. Abuses were significant, even within the grants and restricted foundation funds. This was very alarming to the President. Morgan noted that donors gave money to the University for things they wanted to support, but purchases were being made that were outside of donor intentions. He asked the auditors to look to make sure that donor monies were spent in the ways they were intended. The resulting policy was a direct response to the need for cleaning up purchasing abuses. Morgan reiterated that most of the policies were already in place. In terms of the food piece, Dr. Morgan supports retirement receptions, entertaining accreditation groups, or other official business, however he does not support going off campus and using the p-card for food purchases. Keep in mind that most of our money (70 cents of each dollar) came from students, who likely took out a loan. He is open to discussing a good pathway forward, but he also wants to ensure that there is an end to purchasing abuse.

Senator Schack stated that she hopes the people who made the abuses will have repercussions. She asked if faculty should work with the foundation to ensure that they are spending money according to what the donors wanted? Dr. Morgan and Chair Lennex both said “yes”. Lennex also offered that when donating, be specific as to what your donation is intended to fund.

Regent Adams said that she understood where this was coming from and she was glad this was being looked into. She asked FS to think about it in terms of supervisors or others who are not paying attention. She reminded FS that the culture can be changed and to be careful that the people who allowed this to happen are still the people who are making decisions. In Adam fashion, she asked us to “all work together”. Nobody wants this abuse. Inform everyone rather than just the offenders so everyone is on board. Dr. Morgan interjected that the intention of the policy was to “slow the ship down”. The intention on his part was to get a handle on this p-card situation. Morgan further explained that here was too much there for us to not prepare this specific of a new policy. He will go back and consider the concerns expressed, but for now he feels that there needs to be what could be considered a hard line.

Senator Long asked Dr. Morgan how confident he was that what he was seeing was not indicative of a larger problem? What is the culture? Dr. Morgan said he was not sure how to answer that, but we have tried to look at other campuses to see how they do things for an idea of common campus culture. We have been working heavily on campus procedures overall. A number of areas need to be “dusted off”. This specific policy resulted from a number of areas that were recognized as having issues, such as the examples given earlier resulting in the tightening of cash management policies. Morgan indicated that he could provide a long list of things administration went through to ensure we have good organization practices.

Senator Kmetz asked if the FS could invite the Foundation here to talk about where to find donations? Dr. Morgan told Chair Lennex that the FS could invite Jim Shaw to give an overview of the Foundation.

Announcements from Chair Lennex con't:

- Senate EC will be meeting with perspective Provost candidates on January 27, 29, 31st. Agendas for the candidates were not yet confirmed at the date of this meeting. Please email Lennex with questions you would like the EC to ask. (NOTE: since this meeting the Provost Candidates interview schedule can be found here: <https://www.moreheadstate.edu/Leadership/Provost-Search.>)
- A link for the SmartEval questions from Fall 2019 pilot is in the meeting documents tab in FS BB. Please revise Departmental FEPs to delete IDEA and add SMARTEval.
- Please look at the Faculty Regent election schedule. The link is located on the FS BB.
- Incoming to your email on January 27th is the Advisor preferences survey. Contact Michelle Barber if you did not receive it. Senator Bates gave us an overview of the work of the Advising Committee and indicated that the committee will be coming to FS at a later date.

President's Report

Dr. Morgan will provide mid-year financial update at the FS meeting on January 30th. He noted that the Winter term was up about 10 students over last year. And we met expected revenue.

Provost's Report

Dr. Albert was unavailable, but he provided some new documents from Gray Associates. These documents are available on FS BB and include the CPE overview of Gray Associates process and the process and agenda for the workshop. The workshop is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, March 19 and 20th (Spring break).

Chair Lennex stated that she feels that given the indication from CPE, that institutions will make the final decisions using the data provided by Gray Associates. She noted that she feels better about this as a whole after talking to the Provost this AM. After the workshop we can confer as a faculty and provide further analysis. She encouraged FS to look at the agenda for the workshop. There appears to be a strong emphasis on creating new programs.

Open Forum: Dr. Katy Carlson

Below is the transcript Dr. Carlson provided referring to her open forum:

1. re Managed Travel:

My experience:

- My grant allows me the opportunity for significant international travel to conferences. There have been major delays in approval of international travel such that I often have to figure out my flights 3-4 different times, given changes in availability.

- Additionally, hotels have had numerous problems with the institutional credit card being used, from cancellation of reservations to many back-and-forth email exchanges needed with the travel coordinator.

My questions/suggestions:

- Have we seen evidence that the managed travel program has saved the university significant money, given the cost of staffing it? Are credit card perks being accrued and used, perhaps?
- Can we be presented with this information and provide our own user-side information to weigh in a cost-benefit analysis? Having heard faculty complaints for years, can we see whether on balance the inconvenience to faculty is outweighed by satisfied faculty or university savings?
- We might need a managed travel program for staff or faculty traveling with significant numbers of students. But maybe we have applied the policy too widely. If we do continue the program, I would be happy to suggest methods to improve it.

2. re Assessment of Minors and other small programs:

- We currently require a similar level of assessment and continuous improvement from very small programs, such as some minors (linguistics), as we do for huge programs.
- However, due to the small number of students in my minor, there is no way to get meaningful data. I have had 1-2 students to assess in the last few years. At this rate, I might have interpretable data about the program several decades from now.
- I am uncomfortable changing the minor as a whole because one student did poorly in a class, failing to turn in about half of the work, and thus failed to reach the assessment criteria on an exam. Another student misread directions on a particular exam question and also failed to meet criteria. Note: other students (non-minors) in both classes turned in the work and interpreted the question appropriately. What part of this suggests anything about the program?
- I recommend that we have a size threshold (# of majors/minors) for programs that must undergo annual assessment (and then assessment of that assessment) to avoid these problems.

Q & A

Senators Grupe and Hare both strongly agreed with the forum comments regarding travel and wondered if the individuals responsible for travel are looking this process? Who is requiring assessment of minors—Adam—it is an internal decision. Positive side: it is a decision we can undo. Hare—what is the process to undue this? Grupe—FS would send through Academic Issues committee. Minors that are assessed are those not attached to a major. Adams will look for her former email related to this issue and bring it to the academic issues committee.

Senator Long noted that MSU has people doing the travel, however the faculty member has to search for their own travel. Lennex—how are we saving money with this managed travel policy? When it came right down to it—faculty had better discounts than the travel (AAA).

Ultimately, MSU cannot tell if there has been any savings, or if they overspent as a result of this policy. It is an area Chair Lennex is very interested in pursuing.

Faculty Regent's Report: Regent Adams

No new info from the Board of Regents (BOR) since they had not met since the last FS meeting.

Adams took a moment to talk about getting back faculty time. She said that there was a need for faculty to look at the processes that take up faculty time. She also encouraged FS to look for cool things coming from the BOR. She noted that MSU has a new program in Innovative Engineering in Space Science. As far as Gen ed, Adams encouraged FS to look at where we are and where do we want to go? She suggested we look at it in a new way and to refine gen ed to a true liberal ed form and work toward a solid core set of courses. Adams noted that sometimes we fight with one another over things that are not so important. Ultimately, faculty need to work together to reduce work and increase productivity. She implored FS to please think about what faculty are able to do, what we should advocate for, and why we are here. She will take these ideas to the BOR. Adams wants to draw more attention to the positive work faculty are doing. Be in this together...support one another. This senate has gotten a lot done. Lastly, Adams noted that lots of things aren't great, but we need to show "them" the value of faculty time. FS is the body to get this done. We have the ability to do something. She will highlight that at BOR meetings.

Staff Congress Report

No report.

Chair Lennex stated that we are actually starting to see some movement in the electronic document sharing through Sharepoint. More to come.

General Education Revision Implementation Report: Regent Adams

No new info because BOR had not met since last FS meeting.

General Education Report: Senator Grupe

No report.

FS Committee Reports

Academic Issues-Chair Grupe

The Academic Issues Committee will be working on Streamlining curriculum proposals as a result of Sue Talichet's open forum in December.

The committee will be looking at making Faculty 180 the repository for all promotion documents. Chair Lennex commented that committees will be looking at the possibility of digital portfolios through Faculty 180 or another format.

Evaluation-Chair Long

The Evaluation Committee will be meeting next week to create a white paper for the Provost and Deans job descriptions. The committee will also construct the questions for the Dean evaluation.

Senator Robin Blankenship will be attending the FS EC meetings in Long's stead due to the fact that he has a class meeting at the same time as EC.

Faculty Welfare & Concerns- Chair Sharp

No report; committee will be meeting next week.

Governance-Chair Graves

Faculty Regent update- Beginning of faculty regent election cycle. Petitions are to be submitted in person to Barb Willoughby no later than January 27th. On Feb 21st nominee names will go forward. The Little Theater in ADUC will host the Faculty Regent open forum on Feb. 26th from 3-5pm. Candidates will be giving 15-minute oral arguments on their merit.

The proposals are out for the FYS committee. Graves noted that he was hopeful the first reading will be on January 30th.

Issues-Chair Rashid

No report.

Next meeting –January 30 in ADUC 326 at 3:45pm

Submitted by:

Jenny Dearden, 2019-2020 Faculty Senate Communications Officer