

The 8th meeting of the Faculty Senate (FS) occurred on Thursday January 30, 2020 at 3:45pm in ADUC 326.

Meeting materials available under Meeting Documents on the MSU Faculty Senate Blackboard shell included:

- Minutes from FS Meeting January 16, 2020
- Dr. Carlson narrative from the Open Forum Jan 16
- FS proposed resolution re: Assessment of Minors
- Facilitating Assessment (background for Resolution)
- Proposed FYS Committee – 1st reading
- Resolution – Remove standing committee Planning

President's Report

President Morgan provided this midpoint budget report:

We have had a solid, predictable, and fairly stable year from a financial standpoint. Tuition revenue has been on par with expectations this year, and because we have been watching expenses very carefully we have been ok in that area as well. At this point, the 2019-2020 academic year appears to be poised to finish well. As you know, the general assembly and pension costs are variables for us and may affect 2020-2021 budgets, but we are trying to put things into place to help mitigate possible issues by moving people around and finding best fits across campus.

We continue to try to sell underused property that does not border our campus and apply the funds towards debt reduction, with a goal of eliminating some debt over the next few years, and also streamlining our campus to just the main campus, university farm, and golf course area. Over the past year we have increased our amount of cash on hand, which would be helpful should we have to take an unexpected hit in the future or have an emergency. We have also made some extra debt payments with it.

You will likely continue to see a push to increase the number of assistant professors over a budget cycle or two, particularly to make sure we do not lose ground in this faculty category. This, of course, requires some moving around to accomplish this. I think everyone would agree, and I do as well, that we need a strong cadre of assistant professor ranks to make sure the academic climate leading into the future is strong, and to backfill as more long-running members of our faculty retire.

I appreciate the good working relationship with the Senate and we will continue to work together and push forward. We have done a great job, in my opinion, over the past few years navigating some tough climates.

Chair Lennex made the following announcements:

- The Provost candidate interviews were this week: Jan 27,29, 31. Information and CV's were located at: <https://www.moreheadstate.edu/Leadership/Provost-Search>. Lennex invited everyone to come to the third and final candidate Friday.
- Advisor Training Preference Survey (from IR) will come out on Jan 27. The survey will continue through Feb 10. Contact Michelle Barber if you did not receive this survey.

Provost's Report

No report.

Faculty Regent's Report

Regent Adams informed the FS that while there was no new BOR meeting since the last FS meeting, MSU has hired a new CFO. This hire was in part to assist with the restructuring of debt.

Staff Congress Report

No report

General Education Revision Implementation Report— Annie Adams

Adams stated that she did not have a report. The General Education Committee will be meeting next week.

FS Committee Reports

Academic Issues-Annie Adams for Chair Dirk Grupe

Annie Adams presented a Resolution to eliminate the assessment of Minor programs. A motion to move this from a 1st to a 2nd reading was made and passed.

The resolution passed and is noted below:

Whereas the assessment of stand-alone minors was an institutional decision originally presented to the faculty as a SACSCOC accreditation requirement;

Whereas conversations between members of Faculty Senate and the administration in the 2017-2018 school term led to the determination that the assessment of stand-alone minors was not a SACSCOC requirement;

Whereas the perspective of administration, in 2017, was that assessment of stand-alone minors was warranted outside of SACSCOC requirements because such assessment was “about student learning and academic quality, not compliance”;

Whereas institutional assessment methods are unable to produce meaningful or reliable data about student learning or the academic quality of stand-alone minors, given small numbers of students in many minors;

Whereas minors are curricular units, and SACSCOC standard 10.4(c) “places primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum with

its faculty”;

Whereas faculty already determine the quality and effectiveness of stand-alone minors outside of administratively defined annual assessment requirements;

Therefore be it resolved that Faculty Senate calls for the abolishment of institutionally mandated assessment of stand-alone minors.

A document explaining the background for the *Resolution on the Assessment of Minors* was included in the meeting documents on Blackboard (file: Resolution Re: Assessment of Minors). Adams noted that the purpose for this resolution resulted because the Academic Issues Committee noticed that efforts were being unnecessarily duplicated. The result was a representation of the committee’s intention for an official document that could help change the culture regarding assessment and get everyone on campus on the same page.

Evaluation-Chair Long

Chair Long informed FS that there was significant progress made on the evaluation tool for Deans. The job descriptions are in the process of being formatted and should come back to the committee soon. Committee members will then work to finalize the descriptions over the next few weeks.

Long noted that the committee has also discussed a need to create a tool for evaluating Hybrid instructors (i.e. those staff who also have responsibilities teaching). As a result of a lot of interest and conversation from the FS, the committee will continue with follow-up discussions.

Faculty Welfare & Concerns- Chair Sharp

Chair Sharp told the FS that the Faculty Welfare and Concerns Committee is working on Pac 137.03: Faculty Salary Plan. The committee received PAC -29 back and will be looking at that in the next meeting.

Governance-Chair Graves

Chair Graves announced the Faculty Regent candidates (3-year term): Annie Adams Professor English and Flint Harrelson Associate Professor Agriculture.

The Faculty Regent candidate forum will use a moderator-style concept, with position statements, and will be videotaped for faculty who cannot attend. The forum will be February 26th in the Little Theater in ADUC at 3:00pm.

The Governance Committee brought forward a proposal for the creation of a FYS Committee for a 1st reading. Graves wanted to assure FS that the FYS Committee should not be considered as another added committee and yet another responsibility for faculty because in the next meeting or so, Governance will make a motion to remove/delete the Planning Committee. If approved, the FYS committee would take its place. The Governance Committee

will take up the motions brought forth and bring it back to FS or a 2nd reading. The proposed FYS Committee description can be found on the FS Blackboard site.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 6 at 3:45pm in ADUC 326.

Submitted by:

Jenny Dearden, 2019-2020 Faculty Senate Communications Officer