

Communication Report November 5, 2020



“The lesson the internal campus community can glean from the financial audit: the power of prioritization. From the moment he stepped foot on campus, Dr. Morgan has worked tirelessly to reduce our debt burden through restructuring and austerity efforts, and this singular focus has allowed him to achieve his financial goals in even adverse circumstances. **The campus community needs to mirror this action by refining collective efforts to prioritize the core mission of the university—instruction and research.**” Faculty Regent Adams

Faculty Senate commenced at 3:45pm, with approval of October 15 and 29 minutes as presented

Announcements

- PG-18 on Intellectual Property: Provost clarified in email from Nov. 02 that the lectures etc also those recorded on Webex belong to the faculty.
- Early registration started November 04
- Winter II and regular Winter terms start Dec. 03 and 14, respectively. Winter term II has the option to teach Jan 04-08, 2021 in person, e.g. for labs.
- Start of the Spring Semester: January 19, 2021
- Flu shots are available at the Health Clinic in Allie Young
- Next Live Stream Webex announcements by President and Provost on November 09 at 15:00/3pm
- The F&A money that was held by the president because of uncertainties of the financial situation due to COVID 19 will be released back to the units (see President’s email from November 02)

President’s Report-

- F & A funding to grant PIs is around \$250,000. The funds will be released in combination with this year’s F & A.
- Livestream address to campus will occur 3pm November 9. A couple of guest speakers will address campus; main address will overview process and procedures for remainder of Fall semester, November- May campus and academic affairs.
- Complimented Faculty Senate for use of Webex polls for voting.
- The 8% state required refund has been deemed unnecessary by state agencies. The funds will be returned to MSU, but no timeline has been provided.
- The Kentucky state legislature will begin its work in January with discussion of the biennial budget.
- Potential change to KTRS (now called TRS) to start either July 2021 or July 2022. A draft is now circulating among state committees. New faculty hires at MSU mostly choose ORP.

Provost’s Report- No Report

Committee Reports:

Executive Council- Governance Chair Finch presented a timeline and support for EC’s Motion to Rescind Ad Hoc Committee FYS:

On Thursday, October 29, Faculty Senate voted to create an ad hoc task force comprised of faculty and staff to address issues identified in the FYS special called meeting. The vote was an oral vote in an online meeting. The vote passed.

Senator Hare's motion (emailed to FS during the meeting prior to the vote):

I move that faculty senate create a joint faculty staff task force with the Provost tasked with addressing the key problems identified in this meeting.



Staffing FYS (including fractionalization)

Oversight of FYS (black box of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) Solving the key problems identified with the current FYS

On Friday, October 30, Executive Council met with President Morgan and Provost Russell for a scheduled meeting. After that meeting, I sent an email to the members of the Executive Council, FS Communications Officer, and Faculty Regent. In that email, I expressed the following thoughts and asked these questions:

Senator Hare is correct that Faculty Senate needs to work to make sure that committees are doing what they are tasked with doing. The task force as described is redundant if we are committed to the March 2020 FYS committee description, which passed in Faculty Senate last spring. This description was rejected by President Morgan prior to the October 29 meeting; however, he expressed to the Executive Council the following day that he was not opposed to a standing committee comprised of faculty and staff to address FYS issues, and he suggested that he would be willing to look at a revised membership list and description if faculty worked together with the Provost to come to a compromise regarding membership and instructor evaluation processes.

If we are NOT committed to the March 2020 FYS committee description and are abandoning it in favor of the joint faculty-staff task force, we are effectively redoing the work the Governance committee completed just last year. The ad hoc task force would be populated, I assume, by members with interest and experience in FYS, and would likely end up with many of the same members that are currently on the FYS subcommittee under GEC. The task force membership would also have to be "negotiated" as we are against the model of hand-picked ad hoc committees (part of the reasoning behind the March 2020 FYS Committee proposal in the first place, as I understand it).

In our meeting with the President and Provost, Dr. Morgan said that he is not opposed to a three-year review of data regarding FYS by a joint committee, which could then lead to changes in the program. The work of a task force MAY set us back in this regard because the task force would have to complete its work before a standing FYS committee could be put into place. An FYS standing committee with rotating membership should be charged with regular review of FYS, whether every three years, every five, etc.; this should not be done by an ad hoc group. Again, this goes back to whether we are abandoning the March 2020 committee description or not.

In my email to Executive Council on October 30, I also proposed a way forward, which is to continue to work on the March 2020 FYS Committee as a committee that will have greater input in curriculum and the regular review process, while implementing an ad hoc task force to address other issues that are tied to FYS and require joint faculty-staff unity: these include pursuing the issues presented in the hybrid staff report, supporting Staff Congress initiatives to implement supervisor evaluations and climate surveys, and addressing faculty and staff concerns about workers' rights with regard to fractionalization. I believe that making progress in one area (unified front with regard to FYS instruction, compensation, etc.) will lead to progress in another (curriculum changes and the evolution of the program into one that complies with standards for academic credit).

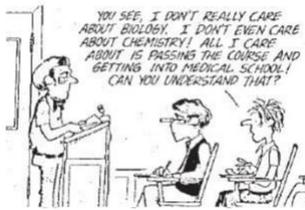
On November 2, Executive Council met for our regularly scheduled meeting. The Executive Council agreed to support the motion to rescind the FYS task force vote, which would open up the floor for future discussions of how to move forward and perhaps the proposal of an alternative task force with a more focused purpose. I agreed to bring this to the full Senate.

After consulting with our Parliamentarian, Senator Chatham, we realized that the only way to keep the March 2020 FYS Committee description in play (acknowledging the work of last year's Governance committee, honoring the Faculty Senate vote from last spring, and perhaps stopping us from redoing work that has recently been done), is to rescind the vote, and move forward with talks that would include Senator Graves as the previous chair of Governance responsible for writing the committee description, President Grupe, myself as current Governance chair, and Dr. Greg Russell. These talks would not preclude the formation of an ad hoc task force to address other issues outlined above. My goal in meeting with Provost Russell would be to promote faculty authority over the FYS curriculum since it is a course for academic credit hours, bringing us in line with SACSCOC guidelines (this discussion has been outlined previously by Regent Adams, so I won't go over it here).

Senator Hare clarified that he is in favor of rescinding the motion for an Ad hoc committee because the direction of EC in President Grupe, and Senators Finch and Graves meeting with Provost would be simpler and less workload. Motion to Rescind the Ad Hoc Committee FYS was carried.

Academic Issues-

Evaluation- 2nd Reading: Resolution on Fractionalization. Motion carried.

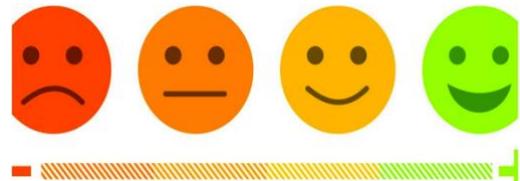


Faculty Welfare and Concerns-

- 2nd Reading: Resolution on Removal Student Course Evaluations. Senator Blackledge moved that the Resolution be tabled until Senator Harrelson's synopsis and citations could be shared with departments. President Grupe agreed to post (and has on FS BB site) the documentation supporting removal of student course evaluations. Motion carried. Parliamentarian pointed out that this sounded like a motion to recommit

rather than table; Blackledge agreed and moved it be recommitted. Motion to Recommit carried.

- 2nd Reading: Resolution on Revision of Student Course Evaluations. Motion to approve Resolution carried.
- SGA Resolution on Student Course Evaluations



Governance-

- 1st Reading IACUC committee description. It was moved to waive first reading and proceed to second reading. Motion to Approve revised committee description carried.

Staff Congress: No Report

****Motion to Extend Meeting (5:34pm) carried!**

Faculty Regent:

The Board of Regents met (via WebEx) in a special called session on October 16, 2020. The Audit committee met at 9:00 a.m., the full Board met after the conclusion of that meeting.

There were some official recognitions, but the bulk of the meeting regarded finances. The Board was given audited financials to approve and an update on the Foundation (and its campaigns) and asked to greenlight further debt restructuring efforts.

Official recognitions:

- Dr. Bob Albert, who had been granted the Founders Award at a previous Board meeting, was in attendance at this meeting to be officially recognized as the recipient
- Dr. Morgan dutifully introduced one faculty person (Dr. Monica Himes) and one staff person (Ms. Goldie Williams) and thanked them for their service. Select student athletes were also acknowledged.

The audited financial statements, fourth quarter budget amendments, and debt restructuring plans were unanimously approved. Particulars of what was approved are available in the October 16, 2020 Board of Regents Agenda Book. Not available in that book: the praise lavished on the president for doing precisely what he set out to do—get control of our institutional finances. The Foundation is doing better than can be expected at these times, and we’ve exceeded certain fundraising goals. The external auditor also noted that MSU was “not quite flourishing,” but doing much better than other institutions and organizations. In very trying times we were able to pay off 5 million dollars in debt while we increased our days of cash on hand from 90 or so to 130.

The fourth quarter budget adjustments show “swings” and “fluctuations” that can, in Dr. Morgan’s estimation, be expected in these unusual times. We have spent our CARES funds, but, due to the various internal shifts and budget transfers we have relied on to use those funds, there will not be a full accounting of what we have spent until sometime after January.

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In much the same way that Dr. Morgan has “moved the needle” on debt ratios and cash on hand by mobilizing resources to that singular end, constitutive bodies can come together to prioritize the sustainable efforts that will allow us to “Educate students for success in the global environment” and “Engage in scholarship” (the first two bullet points of our core mission) in these austere times. And we can do this by qualifying, not quantifying “more with less” so that our institution is able to complete its *essential* work with the limited human capital it has on hand.

Because we’ll never be able to “move the needle” on morale if we don’t put people first by treating their time and expertise with dignity and respect, and if we don’t empower everyone to be an *active* part of an achievable collective solution.

General Education Report:

- A form in process of being issued that will move your exchange courses into programs because now we can double-dip.
- Shannon Harr and Lora Pace presented assessment results to GEC. Senator Schack has asked for this report from FYS subcommittee (currently attached and reports directly to GEC) so that FS may review specifics.

SGA:

We have thanked 200 students so far (100 each week) and given out 10 rewards per week. We are currently planning to continue this initiative for the remainder of this semester and in to next. There is also the “You Got Caught” aspect and the MSU Student of the Week which is a nomination process as well. Nominate a student for their outstanding leadership with COVID protocols:

<https://www.moreheadstate.edu/studentoftheweek>



New Business: Senator Lennex personally thanked the Department of Music for going above and beyond the university COVID requirements to ensure the health of their faculty and students. The Department of Music

has continued marching band, concert, choir, and private musical and voice lessons for students and maintained a healthy environment for faculty, staff, and students.



Adjournment: 5:44pm