

Communication Report March 18, 2021



Faculty Senate commenced at 3:45pm, with approval of March 4 minutes approved with amendments

Announcements-

- **April 01 Deadline** for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant: <https://www.moreheadstate.edu/Leadership/Diversity-Inclusion-Initiative/Diversity,-Equity-and-Inclusion-Grants>
- Second round of COVID-19 vaccination at St. Claire on April 07. Email will be out soon. *NOTE: It is unknown how many MSU employees were vaccinated first round on March 10.
- Provost Search Committee begins March 22. This is an internal search for a standing position. Committee is chaired by Russ Mast with membership Dirk Grupe, Patricia Harrelson, Janet Ratliff, Nilesch Joshi, Jeannie Justice, Chris Beckham, Julia Finch, Jim Masterson, Pam Colyer, Jonathan Nelson, April Miller, Natasha Davis, David Flora, and Frank Greene (student). Applications are due April 12 and campus interviews are scheduled April 28-29 with a start date of July 1, 2021. Provost stated that he is not involved with the search.
- Board of Regents Meeting March 25 will be held in-person at Mt. Sterling, 9:30am. No livestreaming will occur. *NOTE: [Open Meetings Law \(2020\)](#) would allow for live taping of any proceedings in a BOR meeting. A request from Faculty Senate for the meeting to be livestreamed was denied; a further request with supporting reasons to livestream the event was also denied.

President's Report- No Report

Provost's Report-

- The second half semester classes began the week of March 15.
- Registration for Summer and Fall classes is the week of April 5.
- March 30 is a non-instructional day for all campuses.
- Commencement is proceeding as an in-person event scheduled for May 8. Provost stressed, "guidelines would be followed."
- Provost would like to follow-up with the University Promotion Committee regarding their thoughts on digital portfolios and use of Blackboard in the process. A meeting request has been sent to meet after April 16.



- Reported that the Dean’s Council was “heavily engaged” in Phase 2 analysis for address of compression and inversion salary issues. Provost stated that Chairs and Associate Deans provided evaluation recommendations to their Deans. When asked about criteria for any salary increases, the Provost stated that 1) “obvious compression issues from raw data” and 2) issues “within rank in discipline, experience” will be reviewed. The Deans will make a decision the week of March 22. *NOTE: Faculty Senate requested in two different meetings that at least one faculty representative be involved with Deans Council in making any review or decisions regarding faculty salary. The request was denied each time.

Questions:

*Regent Adams asked if Academic Affairs was able to discuss with the Budgets the apportioning of money toward compression for Academic Affairs? Provost responded that he had in fact been discussing that issues with Mary Fister-Tucker and Teresa Lindgren just before the FS meeting. He stated that Dr. Morgan had “referenced the possibility that the \$100,000 [across campus to address compression/inversion] being the base and more money being put into that initiative to address compression.” He felt it would be inappropriate to attach a number for additional funds but was somewhat confident that more money would be placed toward this initiative which would be exclusively toward faculty. *NOTE: It was confirmed at the March 25 BOR meeting that an additional \$100,000, for a total of \$200,000, will be available to address compression/inversion.

*President Grupe asked if summer camps were being planned. Provost responded that, yes, he had heard of some being planned but did not state which camps.

*Grupe also asked a constituent question, “Could MSU require that in-person students be vaccinated?” Provost deferred to Dr. Morgan saying that lots of discussion had been given to what Fall semester would look like. Provost thinks great consideration has been given to faculty requests. *NOTE: It is unclear to what ‘requests’ Provost refers as much of the conversation after July 1, 2020 regarding COVID policy and protocol has been conducted outside shared governance constituency.

Regent Report:

- **Next Board meeting:** March 25, 2021, Mt. Sterling Campus
- BOR agenda book will be sent to President Grupe to be posted to FS BB

Administrative Feedback on Faculty Senate Actions:

- Still further discussions on FYS committee: President Grupe met with Provost to discuss further revisions on FYS committee. Senator White motioned to remove lines 84-97; Senator Schack seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Academic Issues- Faculty Committee Preference Survey is scheduled for MSU mail delivery the week of March 22. *NOTE: Survey arrived to MSU mail on March 25. Please check spam, clutter, and junk folders if the email is not in your queue.

Evaluation- Discussion, led by President Grupe, on fast-track tenure possibilities.

Faculty Welfare and Concerns- No report

Governance- No report

General Education Council Report

Staff Congress' Report

Chair Savard-Hogge reported on her meeting with MSU AAUP on March 16. She and President Grupe discussed three shared governance initiatives: Supervisor Evaluations, Teaching Bill of Rights, and Campus Climate Survey. Chair Savard-Hogge stated that in her meeting with Dr. Morgan on March 12, he expressed concern that there might be a 'legal issue' with a Supervisor Evaluation. Regent Adams pointed out that SACSCOC, 5.04, requires supervisor evaluation.



In referencing the Long-Hail report (2020), Chair Savard-Hogge indicates that staff and faculty are clearly defined in MSU policy. Hybrid, or fractionalized, faculty are not. Staff are being reclassified as faculty without any definition despite policy. Faculty classification should consist of at least 50% of a person's work responsibility being teaching. There have been several reclassifications of staff to faculty of which the person's work responsibility did not consist of at least 50%. In some cases, the persons did not teach and were nonetheless reclassified.

President Grupe invited anyone interested in participating in a focus group for Campus Climate Survey to contact Jeannie Justice as soon as possible.

SGA Report

Executive campaigning will begin March 20. Partnership with Fuzzy Duck continues.

Guest: Darlene Allen, Director Sponsored Programs

Ms. Allen discussed a research seminar to be held for by invitation for new faculty on March 25. The seminar is offered twice on that date, Dr. Jen O'Keefe guest speaker, to discuss with new faculty the support role of Sponsored Programs office. The Celebration of Student Scholarship is planned for April 21 with both synchronous and asynchronous events. Faculty are encouraged to volunteer to judge the participant entries. Some discussion occurred about the role of Undergraduate Research Fellows – it is now under the direction of Evan Prellburg, QEP. All students hired through a grant must now be approved as a undergraduate research fellow. The process by which URF are received automatically excludes any student not holding a high school diploma. Senator Lennex argued that this excludes a significant portion of students attending MSU full-time as Eagle Scholars.

New Business -No New Business

Next regular meeting April 1, 2021 via Webex

Adjournment: 5:35pm