

A Faculty Senate Christmas Tale
By Nettie Brock, Communications Officer

'Twas the afternoon of the first of December, and all through the WebEx Room . . . everyone looked pretty tired, including your friendly neighborhood Comms officer, who unfortunately does not have the energy to write this as a Christmas poem.

Anyway, here's what happened.

Xavier Scott appeared and told us all about the new Blackboard landing page. This is the precursor to an entire Blackboard shift to Ultra, which will start in Summer 2023 as a pilot program. The landing page change will occur after the end of the Winter Session, so January 11.

The Provost didn't have anything to report on, but entertained questions. The Faculty Regent asked about something that had been said in the Board of Regents meeting that occurred earlier in the day: that "unprofitable programs will be the death of universities" and what was meant by "unprofitable programs." The Provost said "I haven't had any conversations about profitability" and have been talking about the student credit hour production. The university has not chosen to move to a model where we would try to "price out what a program costs." He also says they haven't had any conversations about programs closing.

There was a Board of Regents meeting earlier in the day that went on quite awhile, so the Faculty Regent had several things to discuss. Primarily, she talked about the audit. The audit was clean but the auditor had some thoughts on things we needed to do (the Regent noted that these things seem to extend beyond the purview of the auditor):

1. We've been doing well monetarily, but the stimulus money is ending and we need to be prepared for that.
2. Hunting for student enrollment, claimed that we are isolated from this problem and we have done better than other institutions (apparently he knows something Faculty Senate doesn't)
3. Pension liability continues to be a problem but may be alleviated
4. Start looking at expenses – looking at "unprofitable programs" to cut

Part of the BoR meeting was also a closed session that was an extension of a previous closed session of the Board, neither of which included the Faculty Regent. This is because it concerned a grievance the Faculty Regent had filed against the president. The FR had their reassigned time revoked last March, saying that it was illegal – even though it had been in place for 36 years. The FR felt that this was "demeaning to the role of the faculty regent" and retaliatory against certain things she had done/said. The grievance was filed according to PAC-18, and it went through the Faculty Rights and Responsibility committee, who agreed with the grievance. The Board of Regents got the grievance and held several closed conversations about it. The Executive Committee found that there was no retaliation, that there is shared governance at the university, and suggests that there be a rewriting of PAC-18 with regards to grievances to the president. (You can hear more about it here: <https://www.wmky.org/news/2022-12->

[01/msu-board-of-regents-addressed-faculty-grievance](#)) Apparently, the conversation about why the reassigned time should be removed from the Faculty regent occurred because the Staff regent approached the President about things being unequal

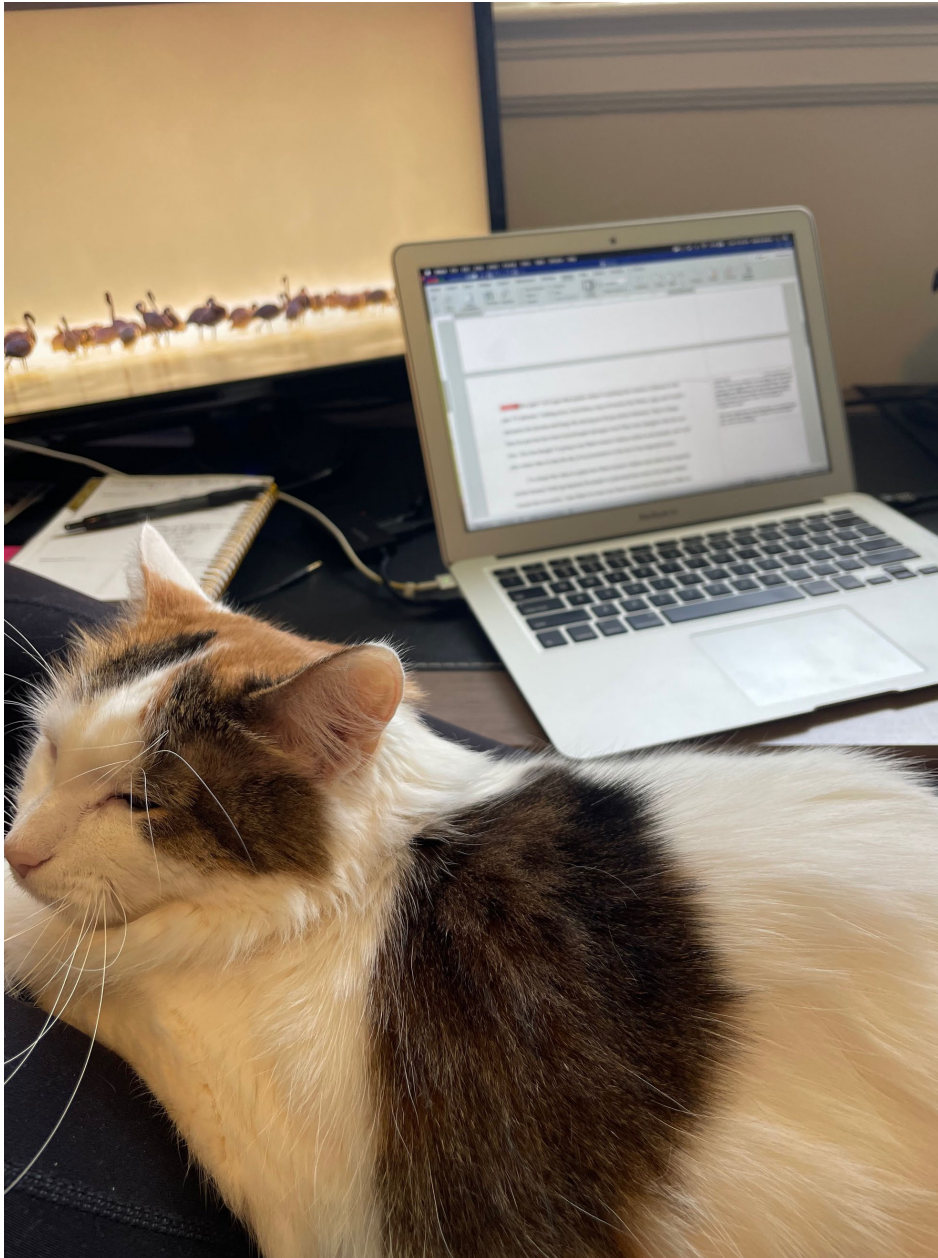
Discussions that came up about this issue. First, if this was illegal for so long without anyone knowing or caring, what else do we do that is illegal? At least 3 universities in Kentucky have release time for being Faculty Regent. A request was also made to Staff Regent Pace to speak about this issue and whether his pay is being docked. Regent Pace says that his pay is not being docked, as he is a salaried employee and so "I work until the job is done." But that, otherwise, he does not have a prepared statement.

The Staff Congress President and the Student Government Vice President both gave us well wishes for our holidays and the end of our break, but had nothing else to report.

To begin the discussions from the committees, President Long read a prepared statement about former Faculty Senate Vice President Dr. Julia Finch's decision to leave the university. He said: "It's with a heavy heart and a pointed sense of professional concern that I relay to the faculty senate and your constituents the pending departure of Dr. Julia Finch of the Art Department at the end of the semester. Dr. Finch serves for students impeccably both in our leadership experience and her vision for bettering the art department. Unfortunately, Dr. Finch has chosen to leave Morehead state for opportunities with the Sierra Club as a chapter director. We wish Dr. Finch's next steps to be filled with interest and expanding opportunity. I mention interest and opportunity as these elements are integral to an academic life. We, and many of our cases move around the country and in some cases, the world to serve the institutions that we call home for our time here. Seeing your life's work your efforts degraded and strangled out of short sighted, fleeting, and questionable metric-driven logics of administration kills your interest. With enough strikes, haphazard administration kills a program, a department, a college, and eventually a university. Morehead State needs a vision, a more vibrant pathway to flourish, grow, and exhibit faculty, staff, and student talents. Effective leadership of an institution invites inquiry, discovery, and a sense of being what more we can be. It does not consist of myopic management devoid of actual governing down a purportedly safe administrative middle."

We then moved on to the committees. Academic Issues had a proposal from Laurie Couch to get rid of the 50% rule, which means modifying UAR 143.02. We looked at the new language of the UAR, and suggest a few amendments. The new language, with amendments, passes. The Evaluations committee had nothing to report. The Faculty Welfare and Concerns committee included a list of things they were doing in the Agenda and did not have much more to report than that. They are continuing to work through all the PACs and comparing them to what's on the HR Website. Timothy Hare is still waiting to hear back from the provost with regards to PAC 27. There will be other changes coming early in the spring. The Governance committee had a revision to the Provost Letter about the upcoming Faculty Regent election, so that librarians are included. We approved this change.

Finally, Senator Brigham asked us what we were all thankful for and pretty much everyone just shared pictures of their pets. So, here's one of mine. (trying to do my job for me, I can't seem to convince her to grade papers, though)



Happy Holidays! Happy New Year! Hopefully your Spring Semesters begin well!