

Faculty Senate Communications Report
January 19, 2023

After a lengthy and hopefully rejuvenating winter break, the Morehead State University Faculty Senate met briefly. The meeting began with an acknowledgement that there seem to be a lot of login and access issues. Rick Phillips is aware of these problems and is triaging the issues. He is probably going to come to the next meeting to talk to the Senate about it.

The Provost's report mostly talked about the upcoming semester class Census and reminding us all about it. He addressed the search for his replacement. There is an upcoming PLC meeting with the President and assorted other upper administration and the search is on the agenda. He doesn't know much more about it.

President Long observed that he had been in communication with President Morgan about it via email and the President implied as though it would be an internal search. Additionally, on that email there were 18 people and only two of them were faculty. This is very concerning, since the faculty report to the provost, shouldn't they have some say in who is in that role?

Provost Norman also commended David on the work that he has been doing over the last year and a half. He also said that one of his major goals for the rest of this semester is to create a prioritized list of things that have been "hanging out there in the Morehead State World" that need to be resolved. He wants to attempt to resolve as many of these as he can and have a plan for the others for whoever takes his place.

The Faculty Regent did not have a Board Meeting to report on – the next ones are in February in Mount Sterling and a work session in March. However, she did attend the Staff Congress and in that meeting, CFO Fister-Tucker addressed potential changes to Optional Retirement Programs (ORP) and said that there would be several town halls to discuss these changes. She has no other information.

Stephen Brigham interjected after this to explain a little bit more about the town halls, mostly just informing us that there will be three and they will occur in early February; also that there is "nothing sinister going on." It turns out that there is a committee no one on Faculty Senate knew about and that he's not really "allowed to speak about." President Long and Senator Lennex point out that they had no knowledge of this committee and that "committees have been formed administratively to do business that existing committees of the Senate should have purview over." So they are going to check this out.

At Staff Congress, another issue that was discussed regarded the evaluations of hybridized staff – the staff who also teach classes. They are not being evaluated for their teaching. In 2020, there was a resolution about this passed, so they are trying to figure out what happened.

As for the committees:

For the Executive Council, Ron Morrison explained a problem that he discovered regarding PG-23. There is a statement that echoes what he said in Senate in the Blackboard folder. In general, HR was saying that upon retirement, he would be left without health insurance for a month. Eventually, Senator Morrison involved KTRS (shout out to Justin Couch) and they intervened. After KTRS became involved, HR changed their tune on the issue. Senator Morrison would like Faculty Senate to work to clarify the language in the PG to ensure future retirees do not encounter this problem.

Regent Adams: "This is an unforced error made at an high administrative level that is adversely affecting faculty and staff. What we see here is a recurrent pattern of cavalier and contradictory interpretation of state statute that is negatively affecting us all at the institutional level."

From Academic Issues, they are going to be discussing: proposed changes to the format of the syllabus checklist to potentially move the required language onto Blackboard; and the ridiculousness that is the current status of re-authentication.

Senator Chatham then discussed the status of the General Education Council. They have not met since September, as the meetings keep being canceled.

The evaluation committee will work on revising the Dean's evaluation process next week.

Faculty Welfare and Concerns had several updates with regards to the PACs they have been working on. PAC17 has come back to Faculty Senate; 27 is with the Provost, who is meeting with the President about it; the Policy Revision document is almost done (and can be found in the Blackboard folder); they are exploring options for PAC18, based off the last BoR recommendations. For PAC18, revising this will be very complicated because the last step in grievances is to take it to the President, but who do they turn to when the grievance is against the President? The solution would seem to be a new body with wide representation.

A question: is there no ombudsperson? Apparently, there were 2 attempts to create that position under President Andrews, but it was determined that MSU didn't need such a role because "we're a campus community; we're just fine."

Finally, governance clarified that the Faculty Regent election is *regularly scheduled* and is occurring simply because this is the end of Regent Adams' term. There are no shenanigans afoot (save the fact that the librarians are being excluded from the election).