

## **Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting on 2023-October 26**

**Senators Present** – Alison Hruby, Amy Staton, Annie Adams, Ben Morris, Cheng-Cheng, Donovan Ross, Doug Chatham, Doug Mock, Fatma Mohamed, Gera Nelson, Gilbert Remillard, Josh Qualls, JT Blackledge, Kathy Lewis, Kurt Gibbs, Lesia Lennex, Lisa Wallace, Lydia Njoroge, Michael Kessinger, Michele Cudd, Monica Himes, Nettie Brock, Roma Prindle, Stephen Brigham, Tom Kmetz

**Assistant Provost** – Chris Schroeder - Present

**Provost** – Rajeev Parikh - Present

**President** – J. Morgan – Not Present

**Faculty Regent** – Joyce Stubbs – Present

**Staff Congress Chair** – Xavier Scott – Not Present

**SGA Vice President** – Clayton Anderson – Not Present

**Guests** – Delar Singh, Rick Phillips

### **October 26, 2023 – 3:45-5:35**

- Call to order @ 3:45pm
- Approval of September 7 minutes – Senator Brigham sent grammatical corrections via email. Also, per email from Senator Kmetz, on page 7, we need to strike “was the former head of the LRC.” Christy Boggs is still head of the LRC. Senator Adams made the motion to approve the minutes with these changes. Senator Prindle seconded the motion. All were in favor. The September 7 minutes were approved with amendments.
- Approval of September 21 minutes – Senator Adams made the motion to approve, and it was seconded. All were in favor. The September 21 minutes were approved.
- Approval of October 12 minutes – Senator Adams made the motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Senator Brock. All were in favor and the October 12 minutes were approved/
- Announcements – President Chatham
  - Reminder: Regular Senate meeting on Thursday November 2 – will be held.
- President’s report – Not present, no report
- Provost’s report – Provost Parikh
  - Invited Rick Phillips to answer it questions
    - Rick Phillips gave information on the ticket system, which has been reinstated. They are no longer using lists so things will not get lost.
      - President Chatham asked how access the ticket system. Mr. Philips advised the link is in your MyMoreheadState.edu portal. It is in the MSU Resources listed as TDX/HELPDESK.
      - We are supposed to add applications and software through the Company Portal. How do we request software be added to the Company portal? You can place a service request to add software via the ticketing system on your MyMoreheadState.edu portal (TDX/HELPDESK). How do you find the Company portal on a MAC? Mr. Philips will follow up on how to access this on a MAC. He will provide the answer to Faculty Senate.
      - Could we have a step by step set of instructions on submitting a ticket? Yes, Mr. Philips will get that sent out through the provost.
      - Why is SPSS not on the Company Portal where they can download it? Mr. Philips advised SPSS is an extremely large package and requires connectivity to the licensing server. Along with firewalls and its location on the network, it creates issues when trying to install it. Mr. Philips said they would put it in the Company Portal and if they install it and have issues, they can submit a ticket.
      - The loss of control of power and screen sleep settings is an issue. Mr. Philips advised that the power is forced to stay on so they can force updates. This ensures all computers are updated appropriately. The screen settings were probably a result of the power being forced to stay. The sleep settings were set to

keep the battery from dying. Mr. Philips will discuss this with the team to see what can be done to improve it.

- Senator Kessinger asked if you have a ticket over 90 days old, when will it be worked? Mr. Philips advised he will look it up and follow up on it. Senator Kessinger also asked about the availability of Colleague at home. Mr. Philips advised that VPN is coming back. It may be a bit but is coming back.
- There is limited control of desktop background and available options. This will be reviewed when possible.
  - The provost advised information was sent from Caroline Atkins regarding the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) if anyone needs it.
  - The provost would like to know the good things going on.
    - Senator Gibbs advised that in biology, chemistry, and biomedical science there has been a significant number of changes to multiple courses in the curriculum. Many of the changes were to get them in line with institutions all over. This should make it easier for transfer students.
    - The provost briefly discussed a Polish university of medical sciences that was interested in a student exchange. More discussion to come once he has further details.
    - Senator Mock said the Constitution Day and Justice Festival activities were big successes. He saw a marked increase in participation.
    - Senator Lennex made a motion to hold a special session for this kind of discussion. This was seconded by Senator Prindle. All in favor; no one opposed. There will be a special session. The EC will discuss it. Suggested times can be sent to President Chatham.
  - Several searches remain open.
  - Academic budget has been gone through line by line. It will be put with the other budgets in the university, and we will have a tentative budget November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Senator Lennex asked what groups are coming out of the library and what renovations are slated to occur. Provost Parikh advised they are in the planning states only. However, distance education may be moving out. They are thinking about putting the academic advisors into library so students will have access to them, as well as Internships and Career Services in the library. Also, shelves and books have been restored on the second and third floors. There are plans for new furniture and paint for the second floor, possibly the third floor. The whole library needs a refresh. Distance Learning will probably move to Ginger Hall. MSUTeach and Appalachian Future Educators will also be in Ginger Hall. Lloyd Cassidy and Lappin Hall have mold and other issues. They may be torn down.
  - Senator Kessinger asked what percent of the budget is going towards academics. The provost thinks 40% but will check and get back with us. The building budget does not come out of the operating budget.
- The provost wanted to know of any mental health problems among students.
  - Senator Brigham sees a large percentage of students voluntarily saying they deal with anxiety and depression. He wonders how many are holding back and not saying anything.
  - Senator Adams welcomes institutional conversation but is not comfortable using this format to discuss these issues.
  - Senator Prindle advised that mental health takes different forms and may not always be stress or anxiety. In music she has noticed that they are not preparing for rehearsals, not doing the work. She does not know how to address it.
  - Senator Lennex understands this is a necessary conversation but feels this should be part of a special session. She made the motion to put this conversation as part of a private special called session. The motion was seconded by Senator Adams. The provost requested it to be face to face. Senator Lennex said we should be face to face considering the topic. Everyone was in favor, the motion carries.

- Faculty Regent's report – Regent Stubbs

- The next BoR meeting is next Friday in ADUC. It will be a short meeting due to homecoming.
- Staff Congress report – Not Present, no report
- SGA report – Not Present, no report
- Faculty Senate committee reports
  - Executive Council – nothing to report
  - Academic Issues – Senator Adams
    - Student absenteeism needs to be addressed.
    - Faculty not in classes – We need to know how widespread faculty absence / class cancellation is. We need to know how bad the problem is.
  - Evaluation – nothing to report
  - Faculty Welfare and Concerns – Senator Brigham
    - Nothing to put forth regarding PAC 1 and PAC 34. The committee provided questions for the provost and is awaiting his response.
  - Governance – Senator Lennex –
    - University committee appointments
      - IACUC – Ilsun White replaces Wesley White for rest of term; Faculty Promotion – Greg Corso replaces Wesley White for rest of term; These were put forward for Senate approval. All were in favor and the appointments were approved.
    - Scholarship Appeals and Advisory Committee description – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – Nothing has changed the membership list will be deleted. All were in favor and the committee description was approved.
- Other business
  - Senator Adams – The Department of English and Languages have a statement about PAC 1 and PAC 34, which has been sent to the interim provost and their dean. The department is not in favor of increasing the workload of full instructors. They think it's inappropriate, especially for their department, because they've got people who are grading hundreds of papers at a time. They also do a lot of work outside, of course, time to facilitate student success. Adding additional burdens would make them less effective in what they do.
- Adjourned @ 5pm
- The recording of this meeting can be found at:
  - <https://moreheadstate.webex.com/recording/service/sites/moreheadstate/recording/1f0f86b45666103cbb4b00505681b7ea/playback>
- Next Meeting – November 2, 2023, at 3:45pm
- Minutes taken by Susan Perry, Faculty Senate ADS