

2023-2024 Morehead State University Faculty Senate Minutes
Thursday, February 15, 2024 – 3:45 pm
WebEx meeting

Senators: Annie Adams, JT Blackledge, Christy Boggs, Nettie Brock, Doug Chatham, Cheng Cheng, Jennifer Clark, Michele Cudd, Benjamin Fitzpatrick, Kurt Gibbs, Monica Himes, Alison Hruby, Michael Kessinger, Beverly Klecker, Md Golam Kibria, Tom Kmetz, Lesia Lennex, Kathy Lewis, Doug Mock, Fatma Mohamed, Ben Morris, Gera Nelson, Lydia Njoroge, Anindita Paul, Roma Prindle, Josh Qualls, Taghagata Ray, Gilbert Remillard, Donovan Ross, Delar Singh, Amy Staton, Joyce Stubbs, Lisa Wallace, Richard Weaver, Qingzhou Xu

Senators absent are underlined above and an * denotes an excused absence

Faculty Regent: Joyce Stubbs

Guest: Raj Parikh, Xavier Scott

Secretary: Susan Perry

Call to Order

President Chatham called the meeting to order

Approval of Faculty Senate Minutes

N/A

Announcements (all announcements posted on the FS Bb shell)

No announcements

President's Report

President Morgan was unable to attend today's meeting. No report.

Provost Report

Proposal - If classes are delayed, can faculty have the option of holding classes on-line. This is not currently a requirement but a very good idea to consider.

Proposal – To offer standardized test preparation courses for students. Senior students are especially interested in the courses to help prepare for the MCAT, LSAT, etc. The current policy is not to offer these courses for credit. Faculty can offer these preparatory courses on their own time.

Update on Searches

Associate Provost – The search committee has made a recommendation to President Morgan and an announcement will be made soon.

Dean of Library – Position was offered to and declined by the 2 top candidates. The committee will review the applicant pool to see if there are additional candidates they would like to interview.

Dean, CCAHSS – Arrangements are being made for candidates to come to campus.

Provost Parikh would like FS to expedite their review of PAC 1 and PAC 34, sent to them last October.

Discussion

Senator Kmetz said in regards to standardized test courses, the library offers a database called Learning Express Library. Is it possible to have this publicized more, perhaps in conjunction with the Provost office?

Per the Dean's Council, there was a discussion regarding changes to performance-based funding related to PELL grants and adult populations. Can FS have more information on this. The provost stated he did not know the details of the signed proposal but knew there was talk about giving more credit for the number of adult students attending the university. MSU is currently working on a committee to recruit more adult students. The provost has asked State Representative John Gregory to campus for further discussion.

What percentage of the student population receive PELL grants. Provost Parikh said he believes adult students would qualify for PELL grants but does not know the details.

Would MSU receive more funds since there is such a large number of students at the university with PELL grants. The provost said President Morgan would arrange for someone to give a presentation on performance funding to the cabinet and deans in the near future.

How is retention being measured. Per Provost Parikh, retention is measured year to year for the purpose of reporting.

An email was received by students that implies upper classmen will not have dorm rooms in the fall. Additional information is needed so faculty will know what to tell students when asked. Provost Parikh said plans are to accommodate everyone who wants to be on campus but referred questions to Kim Oatman for further clarification. Senator Lennex requested Russ Mast send the email regarding student housing to faculty. Students are asking questions and faculty have no idea what the email said or how to respond to students.

Faculty Regent Report

BOR met on February 2, 2024, at the Mt. Sterling campus

Dan Connell was recognized for his years of service to MSU

Student recognition was given to Trent Rose for his accomplishments and contributions

Minutes of last meeting approved

Ratified personnel actions, fall of 2023 graduates, University organizational chart and athletics contract for new football coach

Approved first quarter financial report

Insurance of University bonds for new residence hall

Refunding of University bonds

Purchase of new furniture for the residence halls currently being renovated

Disposal of real property at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex

Presentations made for mid-year financial update, update on the new Science and Engineering Building, new residential hall, update on Laughlin Health Building

University performance update

2023 fundraising update

Legislative update

Board went into closed session

Report on personal service contracts, most of which are related to construction projects

Next meeting is March 29, 2024, in ADUC

Discussion

Have sabbaticals come up for approval yet and will they be approved for fall? Faculty Regent Stubbs said there had been no discussion yet, but she will inquire at the next BOR meeting.

Has there been any discussion regarding a Strategic Plan? Faculty Regent Stubbs said there had been brief discussions but the strategic plan was not due for another 2 years.

The FS EC had discussed how retention was measured. Email was sent to Courtney Andrews in regards to her report on retention during the University Performance update and FR Stubbs will notify FS once an email reply is received from Ms. Andrews.

Has there been any discussion on what is going to happen with the 4 colleges? If there are 4 colleges, other changes will need to be made. FR Stubbs said there was no mention of additional changes. The current organizational chart is only good until June 30, 2024.

Staff Congress Report

Staff Congress EC met with the president and several administrators to discuss PG 57, the retired faculty and staff re-employment program. SC President Scott said SC EC will meet to discuss the suggested changes at a later date.

SGA Report

No report

FS Executive Council

No report

Academic Issues Report

Concerns were raised on how to deal with weather plans. The committee imported the language from weather plan B into weather plans C and D, allowing for the use of an online format to teach. The Academic Issues Committee will bring the proposal forward to the senate in case there are any questions or concerns. No objections were voiced to the weather plan.

Motion to move the proposal

Motion approved

Per the General Education Committee, SLOs being assessed this year are 6, 7 and 9. To those faculty who have selected to do assessment, email should have been received from Kim Nettleton. Please contact the General Education Committee with any questions or concerns.

Evaluation Report

No report

Faculty Welfare and Concerns

Senator Kmetz shared the results of the New Academic Ranks Survey related to changes in policies. The only real interest from the faculty who responded is interest the Senior Instructor Rank. Framework would need to be worked out in advance of writing the proposal.

Discussion

Some departments have interpreted the policies to allow service expectations from instructors. Does the committee have any ideas on how to address this? Senator Kmetz said the general consensus of the committee was to support instructors with how they want to pursue building a framework that addresses all questions uniformly. President Chatham asked if there had been any discussion on how the instructors would be consulted. Senator Kmetz said they did not pursue the idea far enough to answer that question.

Current policy states that instructors are not required to do service. President Chatham stated the primary responsibility for instructors is to do instruction, not exclusive and not only. Senator Adams said that means instruction is what they are evaluated on.

Governance Report

Faculty and librarians should have received an email for IR to complete the FS Committee Preference Survey. Several FS members said they found the email in their junk folders. FS members are asked to remind their constituents to check junk, clutter and spam folders. They will need to contact Courtney Andrews in IR if they have not received the email .

Senate Bill 6 – UKs President spoke out against Senate Bill 6. Concerns were raised due to faculty at MSU not receiving any information on the bill from upper administration. Senator Lennex requested FS make a call to President Morgan and Provost Parikh to stand up for our faculty and our programs with legislatures. The Hazard resolution threatens the future of MSU. Senator Lennex is in support of writing letters to and meeting with legislators to support MSU in the face

of this direct threat of making Hazard a 4 year institution. Doing so would take resources away from MSU.

Old Business

N/A

New Business

Senator Morris said he had been contacted by several of his constituents regarding printing issues.

Next Scheduled Meeting – March 7, 3:45 p.m.

Meeting adjourned