

2023-2024 Morehead State University Faculty Senate Minutes
Thursday, April 4, 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: Chris Schroeder, Clayton Anderson

Call to Order

President Chatham called the meeting to order.

Approval of Faculty Senate Minutes

Motion -To approve minutes from February 15, March 7 and March 21 (with correction to attendance for February 15).

Motion approved

Announcements (all announcements posted on the FS Bb shell)

The ballot for the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities elections will be sent from IR on April 15. Faculty should contact Carrie Varney if they do not receive the email.

President's Report

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

Provost Report

Provost Parikh gave a report on the following items:

Update on Searches

Provost – The Provost position will hopefully be advertised in October, 2024.

Dean, COS – The search should follow a similar timeline as the Provost search.

Dean, CCAHSS – A recommendation has been made and President Morgan should make an announcement to the campus community soon.

Dean, Library Services – The search committee is currently reviewing the remaining pool of applicants.

Lack of Money for Hiring

A large amount of money has been used for searches and to bring candidates to campus. Currently, there are no remaining funds for hiring.

Operational Funds on Hand

The reigning agency who rates the university's bonds would like there to be reserves for 240 days of operation on hand. Currently, the university has 193 days. Funds would be used to pay employees and maintain services in case of an emergency.

Question – President Chatham

Other departments are currently doing searches, such as the athletics department. Are those searches paid for by the departments?

Provost Parikh – Believes the departments are paying for their searches.

Question – Annie Adams

Several years ago, President Morgan said the initial goal for cash on hand was 120 days. Can FS have clarification on why a bonding agency would now require 240 days?

Provost Parikh – Will refer the question to Mary Fister-Tucker.

Question – Annie Adams

Is the provost only given the budget for Academic Affairs and has no awareness of budgets for other areas.

Provost Parikh – That is correct.

Faculty Regent Report

BOR met March 29, 2024, in ADUC. Meeting details as follows:

Faculty/Staff recognized were Jen O'Keefe and Lora Pace for their accomplishments and contributions

Various sports teams recognized

New SGA Executive Board introduced

Approval of minutes for Feb. 2, 2024

Ratified personnel actions

Faculty tenure and promotion

Faculty sabbaticals

University endowment match

Revision of the SGA Constitution
University audit
Approved the 2nd quarter financial report
Tuition fee and housing raise for 2024/25
New fees category
Razing of facilities
*BOR went into closed session
*BOR returned from closed session
Approved the disposition of property
Presentations made for residential hall bonds sale
Student meal plans for 2024/25
Reports on personnel service contracts
Legislative updates
Draft dates for BOR meetings for 2024/25

Next BOR meeting is June 14, 2024, in ADUC.

Senator Lennex wanted to make FS aware that Aramark will raise their rates 6% for 2024/24. Some students are skipping meals and are not being allowed to use the amount they have paid for meal plans because of Aramark's rules and regulations.

Question – Annie Adams

What legislative updates were discussed?

Faculty Regent Stubbs – Updates regarding the new building and money for a new satellite to be installed.

Question – Annie Adams

Was there any follow-up regarding the budget?

Faculty Regent Stubbs – There has been no discussion of the budget since the meeting. President Morgan commented that the budget will not be finalized until the Governor has signed it. The last day of legislature is April 15.

Staff Congress Report

Election process for SC and Staff Regent has begun. Nominations for all areas are being accepted through Friday, April 12.

Staff Regent candidate forum will be held on April 14, 11 am-12 pm, ADUC 326.

SGA Report

No Report

FS Executive Council

Lack of Money for Hiring

Discussion:

Senator Adams shared with FS that the provost told FS EC that Human Resources has no money. Senator Adams questioned why there was no money and what does it mean for Human Resources not to have money? Senator Lennex stated she would like to see open access to the budget.

Senator Lennex renewed her call to get student credit hour production by department to see what professors are producing.

Resolution Regarding Instructors

Discussion:

Senator Lennex asked faculty senators if they had spoken with faculty within their departments regarding what was discussed in the meeting last week with Provost Parikh and President Morgan regarding instructors?

Senator Adams stated that the administration can currently reward service they deem meritorious according to written policy.

Motion – To approve the resolution regarding instructors

Motion approved

Academic Issues Report

The General Education Council and FYS have met and are attempting to address Level 3. Currently, there is a push to centralize scheduling which has put some pressure on general education. The committee will look to see what can be done with the least populated categories.

Evaluation Report

The committee met last week and is continuing their work on the university structuring survey.

Faculty Welfare and Concerns Report

Database of Syllabi – The committee met with Stacy Scott, Acquisitions Librarian, to see if a database of syllabi is feasible. The committee recommends Ms. Stacy create a survey for faculty to be informed of the purpose of the database and see if they would like to opt in.

FWC feels there should be limits in the FS constitution to ensure instructors do not constitute a large portion of FS senators.

FWC recommends if service for instructors is standardized across the university, the service should be voluntary and be substituted for one of the five courses required.

Discussion of issues raised by a nursing professor.

Mis-timed attendance census data for 2nd half semester spring courses

Lack of an on-line directory

Students losing their MSU email upon graduation.

FWC recommends the on-line directory be put under mymoreheadstate. Some of the issues might fall under the purview of Academic Issues.

PG 55 – FWC is still gathering feedback from committee members.

PAC 27 – Tenure reappointment and review has been tabled until the next meeting on April 11.

Governance Report

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities election by college will be April 15-19. Ballots will be sent out by IR.

First reading for Registration Advisory Committee description

Motion - To accept first reading for Registration Advisory Committee description

Motion approved

Discussion:

The committee voted on and agreed that instructors and VAPs should be added to FS. President Chatham informed FS the constitution forbids instructors from being senators. The constitution would need to be amended to add instructors. There is a provision for an ad-hoc committee that can include persons who are not faculty senators. An ad-hoc committee could be set up with instructors regarding various instructor issues. The ad-hoc committee would have a deadline date of August 15, 2024.

President Chatham made a request for consent to form an ad-hoc committee to weigh in on the issues of Senior Instructors and non-tenure track representation on FS. Appointments to the committee will be approved by FS. A slate of candidates will be handed out at the next FS meeting.

Old Business

N/A

New Business

Next Scheduled Meeting – April 18, 3:45 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.