

2023-2024 Morehead State University Faculty Senate Minutes
Thursday, January 18, 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

Call to Order

President Chatham called the meeting to order.

Approval of Faculty Senate Minutes

FS secretary is on medical leave. No minutes to approve.

Announcements (all announcements posted on the FS Bb shell)

MSU campus will be on Weather Plan B for 2/19/24, due to forecasted weather conditions.

Main Order of Business - Fill the vacancy on the Executive Council.

Senator Lennex – In order to hold a special election, there needs to be a caucus held with the College of Business and the library. A caucus can only be held on an even numbered year. Senator Njoroge will be conducting the election. Once representatives from the COB and library meet, they will present FS with the candidates from those areas. Senator Njoroge will put the names in a poll for FS to vote.

President Chatham set up a breakout session for COB and librarians to meet. A poll was created and votes taken.

Vote to accept Senator Kmetz to the FS EC approved.

Senator Kmetz will serve on the FS EC, chair FWC and serve on the Employee Benefits Committee representing FS for the remainder of the year.

General Discussion

Senator Lennex – Has there been any updates on the re-organization? COE has went from 3 departments to 2 and both departments in the School of Engineering have merged with the former Earth and Space Science department. Dr. Eric Jerde will serve as chair for the newly merged department.

Senator Lennex - 8 senators have been lost due to the mergers and FS could potentially lose 4 more.

Legislative Issues discussed were as follows:

HB 228 – To abolish tenure and to allow a University President to completely dismiss a faculty without cause at his/her discretion.

HB 257 – To abolish the CPE.

Senator Adams – There will be an organizational meeting of the United Campus Leaders to discuss these legislative matters on January 19.

Senator Adams – Will the university be undercut due to no decision being made regarding a university in Southeast Kentucky?

Senator Lennex – There is concern for students due to not having the personnel to offer needed courses every fall or spring. Certain areas need expansion.

Senator Adams – Has there been any information on whether or not FTE goals having to be met? Faculty are being told they cannot hire because they are not meeting certain goals. Senator Lennex said COE faculty were being told to seek courses outside of their departments to complete their loads.

Senator Lennex - Summer/winter courses are being cut. This seems to say that administration is forcing the numbers into the prepared budget for fall and spring. Summer/winter budgets are not part of the overall projection that goes to the BOR for approval in next year's budget.

Senator Lewis – Faculty were told at the beginning of the semester the faculty teaching target was 520 SCH, which is roughly 22 students per course. Upper-level courses do not have high enrollments, yet the courses are needed in their disciplines.

Senator Adams – The goals should be clearly articulated to faculty if said goals are expected to be met.

Other Business

Senator Lennex - If faculty are being told they need to teach a F2F course or need to be on campus 3 days per week but are unable to do so because of health reasons, there is an ADA exemption form. Faculty can contact President Chatham or HR for the form. President Chatham has also added the link to today's chat window.

HB 228 and HB 257 have been added to today's chat window.

Senator Kmetz announced presentations for Dean of Libraries candidates are being held today, January 22 and January 23, in ADUC 326 at 11 am.

New Business

Next Scheduled Meeting – February 1, 3:45 p.m.

Meeting adjourned