

2023-2024 Morehead State University Faculty Senate Minutes
Thursday, April 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*, Qingzhou Xu

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

Faculty Regent: Joyce Stubbs

Guest: Rick Phillips, Patrick Gonzalez, Stacy Scott, Xavier Scott, Jaylei Jimison, Elizabeth Ash, Jonathan Nelson

Call to Order

President Chatham called the meeting to order.

Approval of Faculty Senate Minutes

Motion -To approve minutes from November 16, December 6, January 18, February 1 and April 4 (with correction to attendance for spring. Removal of Richard Weaver).

Motion approved

Announcements (all announcements posted on the FS Bb shell)

Ad Hoc Committee for non-tenure track faculty appointments (volunteer) Pending FS approval.

Donell Murray, Instructor of Communication (Committee Chair)

Matthew Knipp, Instructor of Mathematics

Randy Manis, Instructor of Communication

Tammy Martin, Instructor of Education

Motion to accept the appointments for Ad Hoc Committee.

Motion approved

President's Report

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

Provost Report

Provost Parikh was unable to attend today's meeting – no report.

Faculty Regent Report

No report – BOR will meet again in June.

Question

Senator Adams – VP Hesterberg released a statement that the suspension of Superintendent Holbrook (BOR) concerns an off campus issue that is not directly related to our university. Is that the official stance of the BOR? Employees of this institution have been reprimanded for off campus problems. The BOR rewrote the by-laws in 2022 and those by-laws include new ways to sanction internal regents. The measures, unlike any other by-laws in the state, were specifically created because the president agreed there was an unfair advantage to internal regents and unfair disadvantage to external regents in terms of removal. As Vice-Chair of the BOR, Mr. Holbrook has accepted sanctions for something that is outlined as a cause for removal in KRS 63.080. The question is what is MSU doing about this?

Regent Stubbs – Will pass the questions on to the BOR.

Staff Congress Report

SC met on Tuesday, April 2. Due to the weather, there was not a quorum therefore no business was completed.

Tuesday, April 16, a staff regent forum was hosted for the following 3 candidates.

Donna Besant

David Flora

Joel Pace

SC and the SC regent election will be held online on April 23 and 24. SCEC will meet again on April 25 and next SC meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7.

SGA Report

SGA met last week and passed a bill giving the current executive board discretionary use of remaining funds for 2024/25. Resolutions were passed thanking non-returning members of the SGA Executive Board for their service. The new SGA Executive Board will be sworn in at the upcoming Student Choice Awards.

Introduction of 24/25 SGA President and Student Regent - Brady Lawson

Introduction of 24/25 SGA Vice President - Jaylei Jamison

OER Plans Report (Alison Hruby/Jonathan Nelson)

OERs are teaching, learning and research resources that reside in a public domain or released on an intellectual property license that permits the free use and repurposing of said resources.

The OER materials allow users to retain, reuse, revise, remix and to redistribute without needing to obtain copyright licenses to do so.

These materials are free or often very low cost and save students significant financial resources.

OER materials have electronic versions that do not expire and are permanently available to students as opposed to expiration of online textbooks.

OER resources allow customization of course materials and classes to be more beneficial to faculty and students.

There is currently a group of MSU faculty composed from different colleges who are working to move efforts forward that would voluntarily increase knowledge and awareness of OER resources. There is evidence OER could be used as a form of supporting equity inclusion in classes.

The Center for Teaching and Learning has started to offer some professional development opportunities. Two primary opportunities are being in the developmental stages.

Plans are to issue a survey that would help get a baseline of faculty interest, knowledge and of adoption of OER at MSU. Please encourage your constituents to participate in the survey. All feedback is welcome.

Questions

Senator Prindle – Are there music scores available with these resources dating back to the renaissance? Individual voice students usually need to order through Amazon because the material is highly individualized and therefore not stocked in the bookstore.

J. Nelson – Will follow up with Stacy Scott in the library.

Senator Kessinger – What percentage of MSU faculty are currently using OER? Is there a policy that dictates what type of permission is required to use OER?

J. Nelson – Hopes are to create a baseline of MSU faculty who are using OER with the survey. No permission is required to use OER. The materials can be adopted just like any other text. Any printing of OER materials would need to be done through Barnes and Noble per the university's contract.

Senator Brock – It seems the material is more for gen ed classes. Is there help for faculty who are not experts in the fields they need OER information for?

J. Nelson – We have a contact who has an extensive authorship program and can help point faculty to databases and or materials they can share.

Senator Kmetz – The Library is looking at setting up a trial of a new database called BIRD (Base Inventory of Resource Data). This database can discover unknown databases and determine whether they are commercial or open access databases.

Information Technology Policy Update (Rick Phillips/Patrick Gonzalez)

R. Phillips - The cyber-attack that happened last July could have been prevented with good policy. There were several areas that broke down and led to the attack. OIT's role is to protect this organization, therefore the policy update package was prepared. There is one new policy and other policies have been revised that were already in place and needed to be more clearly defined.

The policy documents were designed to be drafts and OIT is working on getting feedback, but said policies are representative of what OIT would like to see changed. This would help with both cyber security insurance and some of the regulatory procedures such as audits.

Questions/Discussion

Senator Remillard – When you talk about remote wiping of devices, are you talking about MSU devices assigned to employees or personal devices as well?

R. Phillips – The delineation is between MSU owned and purchased devices versus anything else. If the device is not owned by MSU, it has a lesser scope in the policies. There are good hygiene policies MSU wants you to follow when you are on your personal device. Wiping the device is not always wiping it clean. OIT has the ability to wipe just the email, just the file folder that has the email in it or in some cases, the entire drive.

P. Gonzalez – A correction to the document would be “to wipe a device without warning.” There would be no wiping of a personal device without prior notification to the user. The extent to which this happens is prioritized based on the protection of the data on the device. If your device is older, remote wiping would be the same as a factory reset and in that instance all information would be lost.

R. Phillips – OIT has not actually done a remote wipe in practice testing but the ability to do so has been available for 10+ years. This policy lists the information to be more transparent. The “without warning” statement was an oversight in the draft and would not be done without user involvement. An additional change needs to be made in PG 55. The personal device statement needs to be changed to “should,” stating you should follow MSUs practices.

A. Adams – For students to do their work, they need the use of their own devices. The concern is potential surveillance of personal information, transmissions of text, data, etc.

P. Gonzalez – OIT is looking at the source and destination of network traffic. OIT is not “looking in.” Typically, with messaging and email platforms, it is encrypted by the network service. If you are using an MSU device to send confidential information, be sure your service provides MGM encryption.

Senator Brock – This policy states that information created, sent, received, or stored on MSU information resources is not private and may be accessed by OIT employees.

R. Phillips – Because OIT is the administrator of the system, they do have the ability to see, such as Office 365, Colleague and Bb. The policy is not designed for surveillance but more for diagnostics. To say OIT has the ability to see this information but would not review it would be inaccurate. OIT does not have the ability to get in iPhones to look at text messages.

Senator Lennex – As much as OIT is saying they cannot get into personal devices and see encrypted data, the policy states they can. OIT needs to be very clear and concise about what MSU is or is not going to do and in what way they plan to do it. If there is no plan to look at encrypted data, the policy should say so and give examples. The data could be mined, possibly sold, or held against employees.

R. Phillips – From an OIT standpoint, none of the data is readable. Nothing in the policy states OIT is harvesting data but they are monitoring it. OIT does not have the ability to open and look at the data.

Senator Kmetz – Can OIT offer information on the archiving and retaining of the data collected? How long is it kept?

R. Phillips – The primary system varies between 30-90 days. The information falls off based on how much room is available on the server.

Senator Kmetz – If OIT does not see the content of what is being sent and received, how does the university enforce whether you are dealing with a political entity?

P. Gonzalez – That statement is regarding employees utilizing university technology resources and representing that MSU has a political bias to any party.

Senator Kessinger – In regard to the Acceptable Use Policy, how does OIT propose to inform students since it is 6-7 pages long and most students will just sign and not read the document?

R. Phillips – The policy is available to the public on OIT's website. The policy is mainly designed for MSU paid personnel and persons who use MSU managed devices. The bulk of students will never have MSU sensitive data on their personal devices.

P. Gonzalez – OIT needs to bring more attention to the policy for students. The plan is to inject the information and training into a FYS format. A remote wipe of a student's personal device for security risks would be an acceptable solution versus the cost of another attack such as the one last July.

Senator Kmetz – Could the final draft address the definitions and criteria of determining what is sensitive and who declares the information sensitive?

P. Gonzalez – 90-95% of the data OIT referred to as being sensitive is defined by state, federal and international law pertaining to HIPA, FERPA, etc.

Senator Kessinger – UAR 405.00 states all smart phones and tablets accessing or storing MSU data shall be registered with OIT and shall be managed by the MDU platform.

R. Phillips – That statement should say MSU managed devices. Note will be made.

Senator Remillard – Suggest that when revisions are made to the policy, OIT have two separate policies, one for personal devices and one for MSU managed devices.

Senator Qualls – What is "obscene or indecent material" and who will decide that?

P. Gonzalez – In response to any discovery request received, that will be determined by the state police or whoever is investigating a suspected crime.

Senator Njoroge – Is there a way to do the password resets during the week when OIT is open? Multiple students have reported having their passwords reset on the weekend and being locked out of their accounts until Monday when they are able to contact OIT.

P. Gonzalez – Staff, faculty and students can perform a self-service password reset that does not require any OIT staff. Rarely, there will be a case where this cannot be done. OIT has published documentation on how to do the password reset and will work to get additional information sent out regarding where the published documents are located to assist staff, faculty, and students so they are aware of the process.

President Chatham – Requested OIT send written responses to the remaining questions forwarded to them from FS regarding the policy update.

P. Gonzalez – A written response to some of the questions will be sent to FS.

FS Executive Council

No report

Academic Issues Report

No report

Evaluation Report

No report

Faculty Welfare and Concerns Report

Currently reviewing PAc 27, which was approved by Senate 2 years ago. The change proposed was to include the process for early tenure. FWC will be informing Provost Parikh that this is an ongoing concern and needs his attention.

Governance Report

Governance has proposed Ahmad Hassan (COB) be appointed to the University Tenure Committee for 2024/25.

Motion – To approve the appointment of Ahmad Hassan to the University Tenure Committee.

Motion - approved

Second reading of the Registration Advisory Committee description. No friendly amendments have been submitted and no changes have been made since the first reading.

Motion - To approve the second reading of the RAC description.

Motin - approved

First reading of the General Education Council description. Senator Lennex asked that senators take the description to their departments for review. Any concerns or amendments can be sent to Senator Lennex by Wednesday, April 24.

Old Business

FS has been asked to consider a change to the constitution (per a request by Provost Parikh). The amendment would be to allow any full-time faculty with 1 year of service at MSU to be elected as a FS senator. Additional amendments suggested were to remove the President of FS from the Dean's Council and Provost Council. No petition has been made to officially move the amendment.

Senator Kmetz – Only a faculty member can propose an amendment to the FS constitution. Amendments can be requested by a committee, a senator or petition of 25 faculty members. The amendment must be voted on by 2/3 of the senators and after that would need to be voted on by the faculty as a whole. The majority of faculty vote is required on the amendment, and it would then go to the BOR for approval.

New Business

Next Scheduled Meeting – May 2, 3:45 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.