

2024-2025 Morehead State University Faculty Senate Minutes
Thursday, September 5, 2024 – 3:45 pm
WebEx meeting

Senators: Annie Adams, Kevin Adkins, Elizabeth Ash, Nettie Brock, Thomas Carver, Michele Cudd*, Ben Fitzpatrick, Kurt Gibbs, Flint Harrelson, Lucas Hoots, Brandon Hughes, Michael Kessinger, Tom Kmetz, Lesia Lennex, Kathryn Lewis, Douglas Mock, Ben Morris, Geralda Nelson, Roma Prindle, Tagatha Ray, Diedra Robinson, Bo Shi, Amy Staton, Matthew Sutton, Dieter Ullrich, Lisa Wallace

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

Faculty Regent: Joyce Stubbs

Guests: Provost Parikh

Call to Order

President Lennex called the meeting to order.

Approval of Faculty Senate Minutes

Motion -To approve minutes from August 22, 2024, 2023/24 FS.

Motion approved.

Motion – To approve minutes from August 22, 2024, 2024/25 FS.

Motion approved.

Announcements (all announcements posted on the FS Bb shell)

President Lennex announced the dedication of Craft Tower (formerly Alumni Tower), September 5, 2024.

UCW meeting was held at Sawstone Brewery, Wednesday, September 4, 2024.

Governance Committee

Due to the recent resignation of a committee member on the FWC committee, it was necessary to do a staggering of terms. Lisa Shannon agreed to an extension of her term to 2025.

Motion – To extend the term of Lisa Shannon as presented to 2025.

Motion approved.

Special Topic

The EC gave a presentation to FS to address the depth of issues with Provost Parikh. President-Elect Adams did the presentation and presided the remainder of the meeting.

Provost Parikh recently provided the FS EC changes that were made by administration to the FS constitution. The revised document will be presented at the BOR meeting in October for approval.

Faculty did not ask for this revision. The provost was informed that there was no need for revision at this time.

Problems with the revision as follows:

1. The administration has not followed policy.
2. The administrative proposal given to FS does not follow Article Eight of the senate constitution outlining procedures for amendment.
3. Administration is removing faculty representation.
4. Administration has expressed a desire to remove faculty status from librarians. FS voted to affirm the faculty status of librarians.
5. Administration is adding work for instructors.
6. Administration does not consider FS service, meaning eligibility for FS would be duties or obligations in addition to the 15%-20% added service administration has already imposed.
7. Administration is silencing faculty voices.
8. The proposed administrative edits remove the FS leadership from the Provost's Council. Edits also remove FS's designated duty to describe and define committees with faculty representation.

FS EC questions why is an interim provost tasked with a policy-violating rewrite of the representative body that upper administration ignores?

A brief statement and recommendation on behalf of the FWC Committee was presented. During Senator Kmetz's time as chair of the committee, 5 faculty members have publicly addressed FS regarding the provost's decisions and actions that directly contributed to their departure from MSU. 16 faculty members across 6 departments have requested there be a Vote of No Confidence in Provost Parikh. No formal survey instrument was sent to faculty prior to the renewal of Dr. Parikh's contract. To be fair to Dr. Parikh while addressing faculty concerns, the FS EC suggests sending a simple survey to all faculty with the following 2 questions. This is an attempt to gather more data to understand how MSU faculty view the decisions and actions of the provost.

1. How well do faculty feel Provost Parikh is doing?
2. Comments.

President-Elect Adams requested Regent Stubbs address concerns regarding the police department. Regent Stubbs received an email last week asking if FS was aware that the Chief of Police has resigned. After receiving this information, Regent Stubbs reviewed the webpage for the police department. The resignation of the chief leaves only 4 officers on campus. Other law enforcements are not allowed to come on campus to assist unless they are asked to. Recently, a student was followed around her dorm. When she tried to call the police department, there was no answer. Four police officers for the entire campus leaves very little coverage.

Senator Mock questioned how FS would proceed with the recommendation of FWC in advance of the next meeting? What should members of FS be doing as individual senators? Senator Kmetz said the current plan was to send the survey out to all faculty. The idea is to gather information and see how FS needs to move forward.

Senator Mock suggested the summary presented by President-Elect Adams be put on FS Bb? Senator Kmetz said the presentation and statement from FWC will be posted for review.

Senator Brock questioned if anything could be done by FS to stop the changes to the FS Constitution before it is presented to the BOR meeting in October for approval? Could there be another FS meeting scheduled? President-Elect Adams said the FS EC does not support the changes and could make a formal statement. FS would need to have an action plan for attendance at the BOR meeting.

President-Elect Adams asked if the BOR book could be emailed to FS in advance of the meeting? Regent Stubbs has been told that the agenda can be shared, but the BOR book cannot be shared because the minutes have not been approved.

Senator Morris mentioned FS has been made aware of the movements of the provost over the past year. Would it be useful to have a document that lists actions (positive, negative, neutral) that have happened for faculty to review since some faculty have no interaction with the provost? Per Senator Ullrich, ScholarWorks has everything that has been submitted to FS (recordings, videos, meetings, etc.). Senator Kmetz will add links to the FWC statement and other information faculty may find useful or benefit from seeing.

Senator Brock recommended a timeline for all the items the provost has introduced over the past year.

Other Business

No other business was brought forth to the outgoing senate.

Meeting adjourned 4:53 p.m.

Next Meeting is September 19, 3:45 p.m.