

- **MSU Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA):** A new association devoted to fostering black faculty and staff was formulated in October of 2016. Any questions regarding this group can be directed to the BFSA's President, Dr. Daryl Privott, or Vice President, Ms. Jamie Thomas.
- **Inaugural First Thursday:** Senator Schack has graciously agreed to host a "First Thursday" gathering at her house today after Senate. Beer, wine, and chili will be provided (directions to the Schacks' house were given in an email sent late last week). Senator Schack is hoping that gatherings such as this, which will give faculty and staff across campus a chance to connect with one another, will become a regular occurrence. (Just remember: "No animal shall drink alcohol *to excess.*")

"But if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought." (Old Business: the Athletics discussion and resolution regarding hiring and budgeting priorities)

Untabling the discussion of, and concomitant recommendation regarding, hiring priorities at the university (see the January 19th CR for more details), Chair Dobranski asked the body to consider the resolution that had been circulated to Senators in advance of the meeting:

Whereas a number of positions at various levels in Academic Affairs are presently filled by interim appointments, many dating to before the current academic year;

Whereas a national search has already been initiated to locate a permanent replacement for the head basketball coach position, currently filled by an interim appointment made within the current academic year;

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Morehead State University, in the interest of prioritizing the core academic mission of the institution, recommends that no searches begin in Athletics until searches have begun for permanent appointments to fill the majority of interim positions in Academic Affairs.

After some members of the body shared the feedback they received from their constituents, a number of Senators expressed concern that the resolution, as written, may appear too adversarial. They were uncomfortable with the articulation of a specific position for hire, and they speculated that such a resolution might render our relationship with athletics, a division where we seek to find allies, antagonistic. Others countered that the specifics were needed to highlight the implicit devaluation of Academic Affairs in administrative hiring decisions, noting, for example, that a search for a permanent head coach was launched a few short months after Coach Woods' resignation, yet the Registrar's Office has been without a permanent chief officer a year after Registrar Perry left, and no search has begun for that essential position.

The Provost, who was not asked to weigh in on the resolution (and would not have done so anyway), provided some necessarily clarification of funding in/and Academic Affairs. He corrected the misapprehension that lines were not released for the new Nursing programs (they have been, and Academic Affairs fought hard to get that funding), and clearly stated that the strategies for meeting the \$1.4 million shortfall in Academic Affairs have been approved. The reason why there are still budget worries, and other hires have not been approved, is because of

severe budget uncertainty. Enrollment numbers are not determined, and the CPE hasn't set tuition rates yet. We also don't know what the final iteration of performance funding will be, so all units, including Academic Affairs, are moving very cautiously. The Provost is evaluating all open positions in his area and identifying essential or critical ones.

After even more discussion, Senator Aagaard moved to strike the second paragraph of the resolution and remove specific references to athletics in the third. The motion was eventually split, and a few minor modifications were made to ensure that the resolution would not state that the university could not hire a new President until open and interim positions in Academic Affairs were filled. When all was said and done, the emendations were approved and the revised resolution passed (see the February 2nd minutes for the final wording and tally of ballot votes).

“His answer to every problem, every setback was ‘I will work harder!’—which he had adopted as his personal motto.” (Provost Report)

The Provost, who had already addressed the (let's just call it “fluid”) budget situation numerous times, made a number of announcements:

- There have been 5 NIPI proposals.
- 5 people have expressed interest in serving as interim Dean of the College of Humanities (to replace Scott McBride, who has been appointed chancellor of Penn State DuBois). The Provost is pleased with the quality of the internal applicants. He also stated that we would begin searches for permanent Deans (for both Humanities and Education) in the Fall.
- There was a Deans and Chairs meeting last Friday. The administrative leadership of Academic Affairs is coalescing as a unit (insert obligatory voltron reference here) and working to bridge the communication gap.
- We are seeking commencement speakers. As faculty may know, there is now a thorough vetting process for student speakers, and those selected to speak are given presentation and writing help.
- MSU received a \$300,000 grant to create the Exomedicine Center for Applied Technology (insert proper differentiation between “zero gravity” and “microgravity” here).

In response to questions regarding international programs and legislative updates, the Provost stated that we are working on better ways to recruit and retain international students and exploring how we can get more Kentucky students abroad. He has also requested an educational legislative update from the body that closely follows such things, the CPE. (Fun fact: the person at CPE who supplies the updates is our finalist for President.)

“Progress is not an illusion, it happens, but it is slow and invariably disappointing.” (Regent Report)

Regent Berglee read portions of Chair Goodpaster's 2/2/17 email to the MSU community and affirmed that Jay Morgan is the sole finalist for President. Unlike the BOR at WKU, MSU's BOR did not intend to impose a “preferred” candidate on the campus community. The search

committee presented the Board with two viable candidates, and one of those candidates withdrew her or his name from consideration before the announcement was made.

A number of Senators asked questions about short lists and contingency plans, but Regent Berglee was unable to state what would happen if the single finalist did not wish to come, or if we did not find the finalist suitable for our institution. The Regent just urged faculty to read through the candidate's materials, attend the campus visit, and provide him with the feedback he would need to make faculty views known to the Board. One Senator, who had worked at Murray when the finalist was Provost there, voiced his opposition to the hire.

Shooting the Elephant (Senate Committee Reports)

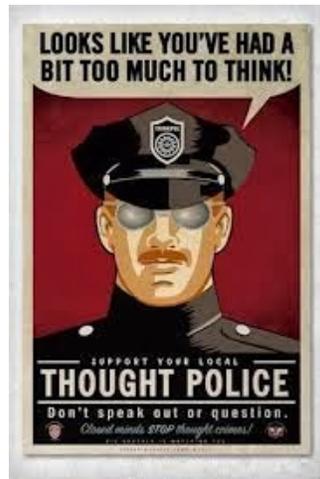
- **Governance:** The Governance committee proposed Leisa Lennex, the runner-up of the 2016-2017 College of Education election for Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, fill the vacant slot on that University committee. They also put forward J. Fernandez and J. Ratliff as replacements for open positions on the University Graduate committee. The candidates, as a slate, were approved unanimously.
- **Academic Issues:** The committee is currently working on a survey that deals with issues of student retention.
- **Evaluations:** The committee is officially resurrecting the "Are We Making Progress?" survey.
- **Faculty Welfare and Concerns:** The committee is still waiting on administrative feedback on Pac-27. The Provost assured Chair Carlson that FWC would receive this feedback soon.
- **Issues:** Chair-Elect McBrayer commended Senator Schack for hosting the "First Thursday" and expressed his (and the committee's) desire to see such Thursdays continue. He also iterated that the "state of the institution" report was now under Issues purview.

"Beasts of England, Beasts of Ireland,/Beasts of every land and clime" (New business/announcements)

Chair Dobranski announced that the President of Staff Congress, Scott Niles, would be attending the next Senate meeting, and may address the body. (Related point: Senator Adams will be attending the Staff Congress meeting on Monday, February 6th, to explain the "state of the institution" report and solicit staff feedback and participation.) Chair Dobranski also asked the Student Government Association President (Adam Abbott) to attend when he (Mr. Abbott) is able. Mr. Abbott has yet to respond to Chair Dobranski's request.

Senator Sharp noted that the Faculty Senate Constitution lists both Presidents as ex officio members of Senate and expressed her desire to see more interaction among these representative bodies.

“[T]he clocks were striking thirteen.” There was a motion to adjourn at 5:15. The next regular meeting of the Senate is scheduled for February 16, 2017, at 3:45 p.m. (hopefully not in room 101).



Submitted by the 2016-2017 Faculty Senate Communications Officer, who knows “Unpopular ideas can be silenced, and inconvenient facts kept dark, without the need for any official ban.”