



FACULTY SENATE COMMUNICATIONS REPORT
May 4, 2017 meeting

“The learn’d reflect on what before they knew” (The Overview) Faculty Senate held its fifteenth regular meeting on May 4, 2017. It was updated on the progress of PAC-26 and given a demonstration of the Integrated Learning Platform (ILP) that will go live May 19th.

“Men must be taught as if you taught them not,/And things unknown propos’d as things forgot” (Announcements)

- **PAC-26:** This important announcement, and the discussion it engendered, is given its own section below.
- **TEC update:** The committee met yesterday and passed some proposals. There will be some changes to Teacher Education Program; for example, the TEP will no longer require interviews for admission.
- **Executive Council Report on the State of Academic Affairs:** The incoming president has expressed his desire to work with Senate, and has urged Chair Dobranski to contact him with important issues and concerns. The Executive Council, desirous of establishing a good working relationship with the incoming administration, will be presenting Dr. Morgan with a brief articulation of current challenges that provide opportunities for productive moves forward in academic governance. In particular, the EC will outline the substantive issues that have animated Senate in the recent years and propose ways in which faculty can work with the administration to overcome these obstacles. Drafts of this response/report will be circulated to the Senate for review, emendation, and approval, more than likely during a possible summer session.
- **Possible summer sessions:** Chair Dobranski reserves the right to call sessions of the Senate during summer break. Senators are asked to either plan to attend or find proxies for May 18th, June 15th, and July 20th meeting dates.

**“Ere to the main this morning sun descend/But Heav’n reveals not what, or how or where”
(Update on PAc-26)**

On Monday, Chair Goodpaster received the reconciliation committee’s working draft of PAc-26. He will consider it alongside the Executive Council’s request that the Board delay approval of the revised policy before the new president comes to campus in July. The members of the reconciliation committee are in favor of such a delay because it would allow them to achieve greater clarity and consensus before submitting their work for full Senate approval. Chair Goodpaster’s determination should be made by May 11th, the date of the Board of Regents work session.

Chair Dobranski briefly outlined the tumultuous history of PAc-26 revision and noted that the current draft is a marked improvement over the recent iterations that have been considered by the Board. He credited this improvement to faculty involvement in the reconciliation process. In the interest of keeping faculty as informed as possible, he vowed to circulate the draft to Senators. (Note: Chair Dobranski emailed the draft to the entire Senate mere hours after the meeting).

In the discussion that followed, some Senators voiced their concern with a proposed policy that appears to include everything the Senate rejected last May. Faculty members of the reconciliation team noted that they too had reservations about particular elements (such as the inclusion of a financial emergency that falls short of exigency, and the possibility of eliminating tenured faculty for program reduction, not just elimination), but they stressed that this draft has more coherent definitions and clearer processes, definitions and processes that afford protections to faculty not seen in previous versions. The most vocal critic, Senator Caric, understood the work that had been done, and the improvements made, but he felt it was important to mark that the university has been put in a state of chronic fiscal crisis as a result of the actions of the current administration. Because this crisis, in his estimation, cannot be “overcome in the foreseeable future,” any work faculty do to streamline elimination procedures in the present will merely make faculty complicit in firing themselves for mistakes they did not make.

In the course of debate, Provost Ralston offered this for faculty consideration: he (Provost Ralston) is charged with writing memos to accompany policy drafts submitted to the Board. He has been asked, and has drafted, a memo to go with PAc-27. He has not been asked to draft anything for PAc-26. Chair-elect McBrayer also noted that Chair Goodpaster, in a meeting with Chair-elect McBrayer and Chair Dobranski, signaled his inclination to grant the Executive Council’s request to delay approval of the policy until the new president comes to campus.

“A little learning is a dangerous thing./Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian Spring” (ILP demonstration)

Faculty will soon have a single login for MSU email, My Moreheadstate, and BlackBoard. The fully integrated system will be live on May 19th. At this time, BlackBoard will also have an Integrated Learning Platform (available under Tools), where faculty will be able to track attendance (if they so desire) and enter midterm and final grades from BlackBoard itself. These functionalities will be piloted during Intersession and Summer semesters and available to all in the Fall.

Important points:

- BlackBoard will be down May 17th-19th in order to shift from the old model to the integrated BlackBoard system. Faculty teaching Intersession can set up their courses in the current system and BlackBoard staff will work with them to make sure that courses are available in the new system at the start of the term.
- Course shells from Spring and Summer of 2016 and Fall of 2017 will be transferred automatically into the new BlackBoard system. Any other transfers (of other courses from other semesters, of institutional pages) must be officially requested. (Requests can be made by emailing msuonline@moreheadstate.edu)
- Faculty will still have access to the current system even after the upgrade is made. “Old BlackBoard” (or, if we wish to be in line with our phone system, “Legacy BlackBoard”) will be available in a link in the portal. Faculty may download and archive material after the 19th, but they will not be able to transfer or move materials among courses across systems. (Translation: faculty will have to upload in the new system what they download from the old.)
- The Gradebook in the new BlackBoard system interfaces with Colleague, so faculty can submit grades to the Registrar from BlackBoard itself. Those who use Excel for grading will still be able to import into BlackBoard, but they will only have full functionality if they use Grade Center in Excel.
- The administration hopes that faculty will use the attendance tracking in the new BlackBoard system, but there will be no mandate for faculty to do so. The Provost made that very clear. The leadership of Academic Affairs and Student Success hopes that this can be one tool to aid in retention, but there is no intent to burden faculty, especially those with extremely large classes.
- The attendance function only works for on-campus classes, as attendance can only be tracked if courses have designated meeting dates and times.

“Authors are partial to the wit, ‘tis true,/But are not critics to their judgment, too?” (New Business)

At the April 20th meeting, the Senate voted to table a motion commending Dr. Andrews for his years of service. The stated justification for tabling was canvassing: select Senators wished poll their constituents about the commendation. Before any Senator moved to untable the motion, Chair Dobranski asked who had actually polled their constituents (note: a plurality of Senators had). He then asked Senators if they would consent to a straw poll to see if such a commendation would merit debate and action. This poll was taken, via paper ballot. The results: 9 in favor of a commendation, 21 opposed. There was no move to untable the previous motion.

“Tis use alone that sanctifies expense/And splendor borrows all her rays from sense.” (Provost report)

MSU is about to have its first graduation from the Craft Academy. Twenty of these graduates have accepted scholarship to attend MSU. Various colleges continue to have their award ceremonies and banquets, and the Provost urged all faculty to attend and celebrate the work of students. The Provost also wished to thank the leadership of the Senate, in this the final meeting

of the 2016-2017 school year. We continue, the Provost averred, to live in interesting times, and he has been happy to work with the leadership of the Senate toward common goals. He particularly thanked Chair Dobranski for Chair Dobranski's stewardship this year.

During the brief Q &A, Regent Berglee asked for an update on the internationalization of MSU report. In reply, the Provost offered what he had said the previous meeting—that structural changes are being contemplated—but he also noted that he believed that faculty such as Dr. Berglee would be pleased with the changes being suggested. Once the report is finalized, the Provost will present it to the faculty.

“Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.” (Regent report)

The next Board of Regents meeting will be a worksession on May 11th. The audit report will start at 8 and the regular meeting will begin at 9. Regent Berglee again asked faculty to contact him with any questions or concerns, and to offer full support to the new regent (Dr. Pidluzny), who will be taking over in July.

“Act well your part; there all the honour lies.” (Faculty Senate Committee Reports)

- **Governance:** No report
- **Academic Issues:** The preliminary report on the student surveys given this term: the committee received 66 surveys from capstone students and 13 from students in FYS. The survey will be fine-tuned for the Fall, when the committee hopes it will be distributed widely.
- **Evaluations:** Chair Tallichet has received about 50-60 faculty surveys. The official deadline is May 5th, but Chair Tallichet noted that this was a soft deadline. She will happily accept surveys during finals week and a little after.
- **Faculty Welfare and Concerns:** No report
- **Issues:** No report

“And universal darkness buries all” (Motion to adjourn) The meeting ended promptly at 5:03 p.m.



Submitted by the 2016-2017 Faculty Senate Communications Officer, who fears “not the anger of the wise to raise” for “[t]hose best can bear reproof who merit praise.”