

LVIII No. 3
Faculty Senate Minutes
August 30, 2023

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, in Ballroom B of the University Center. The following Senators were present: Michael Aide, Larry Bohannon, Christopher Bradley, Eric Clements, Jenny Cropp (Chair-Elect), Erin Fluegge (Chair), Pam Gershuny, Stephanie Hallam, Christopher Baldwin, Monica Kearney, Andy Liu, Kim Louie, Haley Love, Kelly McEnerney, Jenna Moore, Joe Murphy, Josh Newth, Peter Oman, Tim Schmidt, Sophia Scott, Mike Taylor, Misty Tilmon, and David Yaskewich. Provost Mike Godard and SGA representative David Oliver were also present. The following alternate was present: Robin Smith.

Chair Fluegge called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. and said that she was looking forward to working with everyone this year. She also thanked the deans for attending the meeting. Chair Fluegge introduced the first of three guests, Harry Meyer, president of the SGA. She also passed the SGA meeting sign-up sheet around for senators to sign up to attend the meetings. Meyer and the SGA executive staff attended a three-day retreat and discussed goals for the year. Drop boxes will be installed across campus for student suggestions. The SGA will be discussing accessibility issues—hoping to add more lighting on campus. The first SGA meeting will be on September 11 with a retreat with new senators scheduled for September 10th from 2:30 to 4:30. Chair Fluegge asked Meyer about participating in the SGA meetings via Zoom; however, there may be some logistical issues.

The next two guests, Tonya Wells, Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communications, and Katie Krodinger, Director of New Student Programs highlighted some of the sesquicentennial events. Events include the National College Color Day on September 1st from 11 to 1 in front of Kent Library. Free t-shirts and snacks will be available and worn t-shirts can be exchanged for new ones. Wells informed the senate that due to the sesquicentennial celebrations, dates for certain events had to be adjusted. For example, the alumni association awards dinner honoring the Alumni Merit Award, Faculty Merit Award, and Distinguished Young Alumni Award winners will be held on October 12th from 5 to 7 p.m. There will also be a Homecoming Kickoff Block Party on October 13th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Normal. Homecoming will be on October 14th. Dean Glackin also announced the following events to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Kent Library: Rare Book Room will be open on October 14 and a biographical documentary on William Faulkner (the first one authorized by his family) will be shown at Rose Theatre; October 15th, cake and refreshments will be provided during common hour; October 16th, a lecture on university history will be presented. Krodinger added that there will be another event at the end of the semester. A winter fest event, holiday lights on December 1st will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the naming of the institution. For more information on sesquicentennial events, visit: <https://semo.edu/150/>

Up next, Chair Fluegge called for a motion to approve to approve the minutes from the last meeting on May 3, 2023. Senator Bohannon made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Senator Moore. The minutes did not reflect Senator Schmidt's attendance and contained a spelling error. The minutes were unanimously approved, pending the corrections, and will be posted on the webpage.

Chair Fluegge then asked for a motion to untable the legislative committee members. Senator Moore made the motion; seconded by Senator Scott. The motion was unanimously approved. The chair then asked for a motion to approve the legislative and reporting committees. Senator Schmidt made the motion which was seconded by Senator Taylor. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chair's Report:

Chair Fluegge shared several updates with the senate. The remote work committee has been renamed flexible work committee. The pilot program ends September 5th but will add more staff throughout the fall. The program has been overall successful according to Alissa Davis in human resources. The chair said that faculty have not been included in the policy, but a draft may be brought forward to the BOG. The provost commented that faculty have flexibility built into their work environments and that he had talked with Alissa Davis about the issue and that the policy is for staff since their work schedules have no flexibility. Chair Fluegge then discussed centralized scheduling. The committee met throughout the summer and there is ongoing training, particularly with the chairs and administrative assistants who will be building schedules with the software. Centralized scheduling will be in use beginning fall 2024. Dr. Judd, chair of the biology department, is chair of the centralized scheduling committee. Chair Fluegge is also on the committee, and both would be points of contact if faculty have questions. Chair Fluegge also met with the Council of Deans last Thursday and after the meeting, stayed and talked with Chelsea McNeely about opportunities for faculty regarding course designs and options with course templates. The chair also informed the senate that the budget review committee will be meeting more often. Chair Fluegge, Senators Scott and Louie will represent the senate on the committee and their first meeting is September 26th. The faculty senate is also scheduled for a First Friday on December 8th. Chair Fluegge asked senators to brainstorm some topics for discussion. At the May BOG meeting, President Vargas announced that the university will be working on building a policy library registry. The executive staff, the provost, and the president met with Hayley Hanson, a partner with the Husch Blackwell law firm, over the summer to discuss the faculty handbook. Hayley will be giving a presentation at the next meeting on September 13th via Zoom. The president and Chris Martin will also be attending; chairs and deans are also invited. Hayley will be outlining best practices, providing examples of what other schools do, suggesting options that comply with state statutes. She will also be working on an AI policy for the university. The provost commented that Hayley will not be telling others here “what to do”; rather, provide guidance that keeps the university in legal compliance. He also mentioned Kent State and the University of Central Missouri as examples of schools that have policy library registries that the senate could view. Chair Fluegge gave special thanks to Senator Louie and committees last year that brought the handbook issue forth. She also met with committee chairs last week to discuss legislative items for the year. She informed the senate that some bills from the last session were returned for further review; however, some of the desired changes are minor. These are the bills that will be discussed in session 58:

FS Bill 22-A-4 Revising Procedures for Graduate Faculty Status
FS Bill 23-A-11 Revising Emeritus Status Procedures
FS Bill 23-A-10 Revising Academic Program Review Procedures
FS Bill 23-A-7 Faculty Merit Pay Policy
FS Bill 23-A-8 Department Chairs Policy
FS Bill 23-A-9 Department Chairs Procedures
FS Bill 23-A-6 Grade Appeal Procedures

Chair Fluegge also said that the professional affairs committee will be reviewing the promotion and tenure bill during this session, particularly the dossier admission procedure.

Provost's Report:

The provost is visiting academic departments. Program health and relevant data are at the center of the discussions. He shared first day enrollment information—not census information. Census data will be available on the twentieth day—September 19th. The information the provost shared compared data from fall 2022 to the first day of class— (August 21) 2023.

Strengths: slight increase in retention—up 1% (75%); Dual credit was up 18%; graduate head count increased by 10% (graduate international students increased by 161 students; however, domestic graduate head count was down 1.8%.

Areas of concern: new first time undergraduate students are down 10%; new transfer undergraduate students are down 22%. Overall, undergraduate headcount went down 324 students or 4.2%. FTE went down 3%. He also said that in 2019, 11% of total student population was graduate students and this fall, it is 18%. In 2019, 6% of student population was international and this fall it is 13%. 14% of students are online students. Senator Aide asked the provost if the decline in enrollment was due to a lack of certificate offerings. The provost said that they are looking at certificate offerings and what may be offered as a certificate or transition minors into certificates. Financial aid is also involved in certificates and how many credit hours are required. The most popular certificate is the graduate trauma and resiliency certificate, and the most popular undergraduate certificate is for the police academy. The provost also discussed an email that he sent on August 14th regarding professional development funds. Information is on the academic affairs portal and was never in the handbook. The information has always been on the provost's website. He answered questions about memberships in professional organizations—about funding the memberships. Also, questions were asked about professional development funds having time limit usages.

SGA Report:

The SGA has not met yet. David and VP of the SGA, Kayla McCain have invited a member of the state legislature, John Voss to attend the SGA meeting on September. Also, David is a candidate for Man of the Year.

Academic Affairs: Will meet next week

Documents: Have not met yet

Compensation: Will meet next week

Governance: Have not met yet; will email committee members

Professional: Will meet next week

Membership: Will email senators about commencement committee; there is still an opening on the senate—the nursing department has not selected a senator yet

Announcements:

Cropp: JFC –purchase of new sheets and towels

Faculty Social Hour—Friday, September 29, 5 to 7 p.m. Glenn House

Moore: Head Over Heels (Go-Go's songs) September 27-30 (7:30) and October 1 (2 p.m.)

Bedell Performance Hall

Murphy: Lunar viewing tonight with telescope at 7:30 p.m.--Blue Moon

Adjournment: Chair Fluegge called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Senator Taylor and seconded by Senator Murphy. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13 from 3-5 in Ballroom A of the University Center.