

LV No. 9
Faculty Senate Minutes
January 27, 2021

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 via Zoom. The following Senators were present: Larry Bohannon, Indi Braden, Ver Campbell-Jones, Eric Clements, Jenny Cropp, Tammy Davis, Beverly Evans, Erin Fluegge, Susan Fulton, Rueben Gerding, Stephanie Hallam, Joni Hand, Laura Hatcher, Lesly Krome, Ziping Liu, Kim Louie, Elizabeth McFarland, Belinda McMurry, Pam Parry, David Powell, Raju Vanteddu, Haohao Wang, Diane Wood, and David Yaskewich. Provost Godard was also present. Rachel Morgan Theall and Pam Gershuny were present as alternates.

New Business

The Senate discussed a proposed finals schedule with two options. One option is to keep the finals at two hours but adding an extra day (Friday) for students to take finals; and option two is to have exams run one hour and forty-five minutes, giving students an extra fifteen minutes to get to their next exam. Provost Godard stated that Senator Bohannon had brought to his attention that there were issues with the passing time between finals students, especially River Campus students. Most, if not all, Senators stated that they ran these options by their departments, and the faculty were more for option two, shortening the final exams to one hour and forty-five minutes. The Provost stated that this is not something that is going to take place right away but wanted to see where the faculty stood on the matter and thanked the Senate for their feedback.

Reports

Chair Wood reported that she reached out to Chairs Forum and deans regarding student evaluations. She stated that she contacted Julie Ray and asked her to get the chairs' perspective on the student evaluations. Some of the questions she asked were: What are we expecting student evaluations to accomplish? Do the evaluations we use effectively meet the intention(s) of them; if not then how or what can we create to properly measure the effectiveness of teaching? Chair Wood did receive feedback and will share with the Academic Affairs to assist in the student evaluation bills. She stated that it is important to get a perspective from all groups involved (e.g., faculty chairs, deans, and Provost).

Chair Wood also mentioned that the Executive Committee had a meeting with the Legislative Committee Chairs to discuss where we are with business thus far, and to see if there is anything we need to discuss with the Senate.

Provost Godard reported that he sent an email to the chairs and dean regarding Fall 2021 and what their plan of action will be. He stated that the University will continue to schedule courses similarly to what was done this semester and will report more on the matter as information comes.

The Provost reported that the Emergency Response Team (ERT) met yesterday. Dr. Russel, Medical Director for the Cape Girardeau Public Health Center, and Jain Wiseman, Director of the Cape Girardeau Public Health Center, joined them to give updates about vaccines. The ERT continues to have daily communication with the Health Department for updates.

Lastly, Provost Godard reported that the academic prioritization has moved through phase one with actions from the Board of Regents during their December meeting. There will be a phase two for some program consideration during their February meeting. Any programs that didn't have to bring to the Board for action, and the intent was either to transform or enhance their programs the expectation is that it will happen. He stated that time is of the essence if there are programs that are attempting to transform or enhance by Fall 2021.

Legislative Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – Senator Fluegge reported that the committee continues to work on the student evaluation bills. They also plan to start working on the Academic 5-Year Calendar, but they are waiting to speak with the ERT before any dates are set.

Compensation – Senator Parry reported that their first meeting is scheduled for February 22. She stated that they will discuss faculty compensation, including adjuncts; minimum wage; and look at salary and equities to start.

Documents – No report.

Governance – Senator McFarland reported that the committee is reviewing the bill process in regard to the Board of Regents bylaws versus what's stated in the Faculty Handbook. They are making sure the process is still valid and hope to present a bill for the Senate soon.

Professional Affairs – Senator Fulton reported that the committee will be meeting next Wednesday. They will work on an Emeritus bill to present to Senate at the next meeting.

Membership – Senator Louie welcomed Senator Tammy Davis to the Senate.

Non-Legislative Committee Reports

Johnson Faculty Center – No report.

RNTT AdHoc – Senator Hatcher reported that the subcommittees are working on projects and working to get everyone back together after the break.

Adjournment

Senator Hatcher moved to adjourn; Senator Davis seconded. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 from 3-5 p.m. via Zoom.