

LV. No. 14
Faculty Senate Minutes
April 14, 2021

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 via Zoom. The following Senators were present: Larry Bohannon, Indi Braden, Vera Campbell-Jones, Eric Clements, Jenny Cropp, Tammy Davis, Beverly Evans, Erin Fluegge, Susan Fulton, Stephanie Hallam, Joni Hand, Laura Hatcher, Lesly Krome, Ziping Liu, Elizabeth McFarland, Belinda McMurry, Pam Parry, David Powell, Raju Vanteddu, Haohao Wang, Diane Wood, and David Yaskewich. Provost Mike Godard was also present. Pam Gershuny, Jenna Moore, and Rachel Theall were present as alternates. Kim Louie and Kristen Sobba were not present nor represented by an alternate.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for March 31, 2021 (55.13) were approved.

New Business

Senator Bohannon introduced *Resolution 21-X – Johnson Faculty Center*. He stated that the Documents Committee worked on this resolution to update the language of the bylaws in this section of the Faculty Handbook. Senator McMurry moved to approve a friendly amendment by adding language to specify what funds the Johnson Faculty Center has access to, Senator Hand seconded. A vote was taken, and the amendment passed. Chair Elect Hatcher moved to approve the resolution with the amendment; Senator Fluegge seconded. A vote was taken, and *Resolution 21-2 – Johnson Faculty Center* passed.

Reports

Chair Wood reported that the student evaluation bills are still being reviewed by the President. She stated that she spoke with the Provost about the bills, and he is working on them with President Vargas.

Provost Godard reported that right now he is reviewing tenure and promotion, RNTT Merit, and post-professorial dossiers. He stated that he is also in the process of completing the chair and dean reviews.

Chair Wood asked Provost Godard that with academia needing more cuts, if he knew what the University could expect for the next year; The Provost stated that they are looking at what positions are vacant and what they will be doing with them, but that doesn't mean they aren't filling them; and he has received permission to fill most of those position.

Chair Wood also asked that with the length of time it takes to fill these vacant positions, what are the plans regarding faculty filling those holes in departments that have vacancies. Provost Godard stated that in some departments it's easier to fill those positions with adjuncts, where appropriate, and in some they are doing a one-year emergency temp hire. They plan to do full searches in the following year when there is more time.

Chair Wood stated that her concern is for junior faculty and RNTT faculty that are already teaching five courses in a semester and feel like they can't say "no" when their chairs ask them to cover courses. She suggested that to the Provost that he let faculty know that they shouldn't

take on an overload if their load is already significant. The Provost stated that it is always someone's personal choice to take on more courses, but yes, he doesn't want anyone to feel like there would be repercussions for saying "no". He stated that the University is trying to limit the RNTT and junior faculty from taking on those overloads, and they try to hire on adjuncts where needed.

Legislative Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – Senator Fluegge stated that Senate's Takeaway Friday is April 30 and asked for volunteers to discuss what exactly happens in Faculty Senate.

Compensation – Senator Parry reported that the committee has been attending Budget Review meetings. They have a suggestion of a 1.4% increase and there was discussion about eliminating the MOTION program but there has been a hold on changes to benefits until the 2022 year.

Documents – Senator Bohannon thanked the committee for all the hard work they've done.

Governance – Senator Cropp reported that the committee has been working on a resolution for the Faculty Senate Constitution section of the Faculty Handbook regarding the part about having a Student Government Liaison attending Senate meetings.

Professional Affairs – Senator Fulton reported that the committee continues to work on creating a bill to make changes on the section of the Faculty Handbook regarding Department Chairs.

They are working with Chairs Forum to receive feedback from them regarding this section.

Membership – Chair Wood reported that at the last Senate meeting, removing a member from the Documents Committee was discussed because they didn't participate nor were they present for any committee meetings, and asked for a vote from the Senate. Senator Hand moved to have the member removed from the committee; Chair Elect Hatcher seconded. A vote was taken, and the removal passed with three abstentions.

Non-Legislative Committee Reports

Johnson Faculty Center – Chair Elect Hatcher reported that facilities management has given the committee a quote on fixing the ceiling on the front porch of the Center and has given the okay to proceed.

RNTT AdHoc – Chair Elect Hatcher reported that suggestions from the committee members have been gathered and she is making a report which will be presented at the next Senate meeting. They are going to be cleaning up the RNTT language in the Faculty Handbook so that it is all in one place.

Adjournment

Chair Elect Hatcher moved to adjourn; Senator McMurry seconded. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 3:52 p.m.