

LIX No. 15
Faculty Senate Minutes
April 23, 2025

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, in the Redhawks Room of the University Center. The following Senators were present: Michael Aide, Larry Bohannon, Abram Book, Christopher Bradley, Eric Clements, Jenny Cropp (Chair), Corrie Dudley, Erin Fluegge, Pam Gershuny, Barbara Lamont, Hayley Love, Kelly McEnerney, Jenna Moore (Chair-Elect), Joe Murphy, Josh Newth, Tomoaki Nomi, Peter Oman, Anthony Scherer, Kyle Schneider, Mike Taylor, Misty Tilmon, and David Yaskewich. Interim Provost Doug Koch was present. The following proxies were present: Juefei Yuan. The following alternates were present: Marikit Fain. Senator Scott was not present or represented by an alternate.

Chair Cropp called the meeting to order at 3:04PM

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

- **Minutes from April 9, 2025:** Approved with corrections.
 - **Corrections:** Senator Love's name was spelled wrong

2. New Business

- **Resolution 25-6 In Support of DEIA:** Motion to Introduce: Senator Taylor, seconded; Senator Love
 - **Introduction:** The Resolution is a symbolic statement in line with actions taken by other universities to support Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA).
 - **Concerns:** Potential backlash from the Board of Governors or state legislators was discussed. Some members expressed concerns about the timing and potential political repercussions.
 - **Key Points:**
 - The resolution uses caselaw language similar to that used by the AAUP and Harvard in their lawsuit.

- Concerns were raised about whether the resolution might cause issues with the Board of Governors or state legislators.
 - The resolution is intended to be a symbolic statement and is important for the historical record.
 - Discussion on whether to wait for the new administration before passing the resolution to avoid potential backlash.
 - Emphasis on the importance of standing up for academic freedom and inclusiveness, despite potential risks.
- **Feedback:** Faculty members are to review the resolution and provide feedback before voting next week.
- **Resolution 25-7 Establishing a Faculty Senate Foundation Account:** Motion to Consider: Senator Schneider, seconded; Senator Fluegge
 - **Introduction:** The Resolution is to establish a foundation account to support faculty social events and employee appreciation.
 - **Friendly Amendment:** Change language to say, “Anyone can donate.”
 - **Key Points:**
 - The account will support faculty social events and employee appreciation activities.
 - The goal is to raise enough funds to host regular social events and appreciation activities for **all** employees.
 - The account will be promoted for donations from faculty, employees, and external donors.
 - Discussion on the current funding sources for faculty social events and the need for a dedicated foundation account to alleviate budget strains.
 - The account will be funded through donations from faculty, employees, and potentially external donors.
 - **Result:** The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.
 - **Action Items:**

Senator Cropp will coordinate with the foundation to arrange for the creation of the account.

3. Reports

- **Chair –Senator Cropp:**
 - Provided an end-of-year report, highlighting key activities and accomplishments.
 - Mentioned the President's agreement to share compensation memos with the Board of Governors, which has not been done before.
- **Administrative Liaison – Interim Provost Koch:**
 - Shared updates on staffing changes, including the resignation of Jenn Reichert and the retirement of Patsy Seabaugh.
 - Discussed support for international faculty and students, including travel concerns and communication from the International Office.
 - Agreed with the need for faculty to be aware of the information being shared with international students and the importance of reaching out to the International Office for guidance.
- **SGA – Sophie Martin:**
 - Reported via email that all new SGA exec board members were approved.

4. Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs –Senator Love:**
 - Updates on syllabus policy changes and the academic calendar.
 - Mentioned the approval of the three-year academic calendar and graduation resolutions.
- **Compensation –Senator Fluegge:**
 - Compensation memos accepted and forwarded to the President.
 - Mentioned the Budget Review Committee's acceptance of the memos.
- **Documents –Senator Bohannon:**
 - Joint effort with Governance Committee on constitutional amendments.
 - The amendments were approved and will be voted on by the faculty.

- **Governance -Senator Newth:**
 - End-of-year report prepared.
 - Focus on rewriting the Faculty Senate Constitution to reflect current practices.
- **Professional Affairs –Senator McEnerney:**
 - Focus group feedback on new faculty designations.
 - Passed a bill related to faculty designations.
- **Membership –Senator Murphy:**
 - Ballot for constitutional amendment will be sent to the faculty.
 - Mentioned the need to fill positions for the Grievance and GRFC committees.
- **Johnson Faculty Center –Senator Moore:**
 - Rate increase for Johnson Suites have been approved by the committee.
 - Working with the President's Office to implement the change.

Faculty Senate Awards were presented to Senators completing a three-year term.

- Sophia Scott, Engineering and Technology
- Eric Clements, History and Anthropology
- Michael Bezushko, Kent Library
- Erin Fluegge, Management
- Michael Aide, Agriculture
- Joshua Newth, Art and Design
- Larry Bohannon, Elementary, Early, and Special Education
- Corrie Dudley, Nursing

Dr. Jenny Cropp was presented a plaque in appreciation for her service as Chair of the 59th Session of the Faculty Senate.

Motion to adjourn; Senator Moore, seconded; Senator Murphy

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41pm